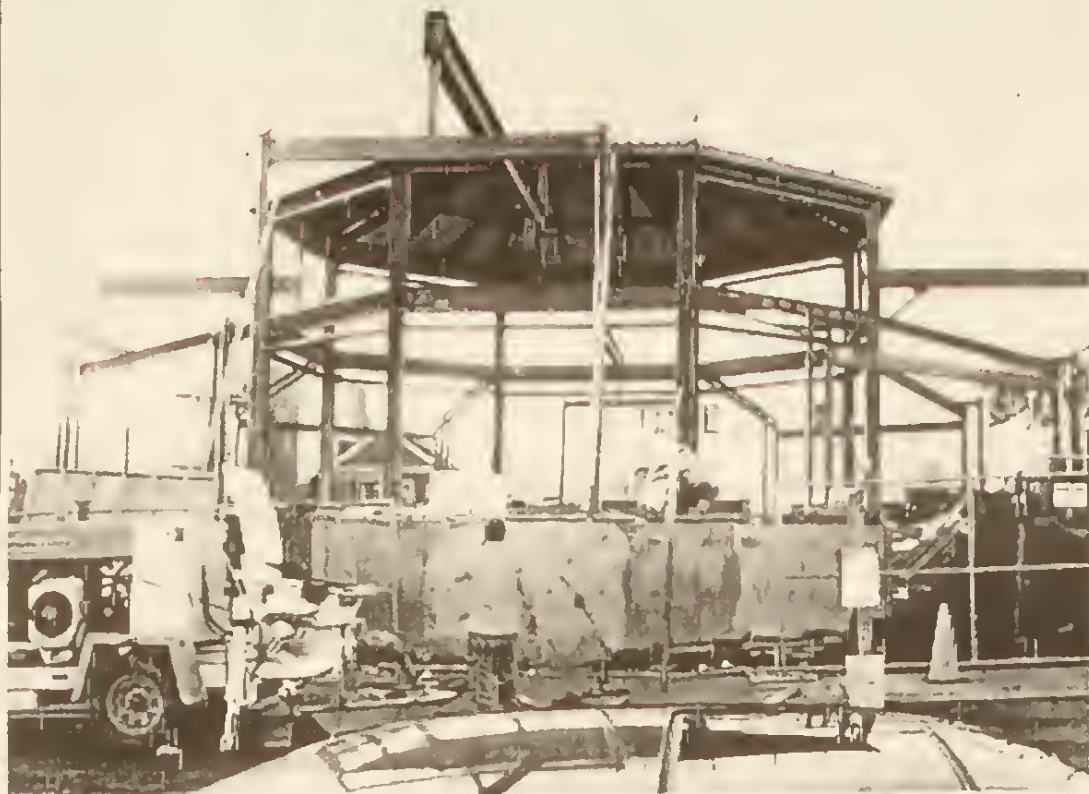


### A Year of Progress in Visitacion Valley Community



Construction began in 2009 on the new Visitacion Valley Branch library at Leland Avenue and Rutland Street.

Significant improvements were a part of Visitacion Valley in 2009 as the neighborhood begins a new year and decade.

Demolition began at the former Schlage Lock facility on April 21 and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted to create the Visitacion

Valley Redevelopment Area.

Planning to transform Sunnydale into a brand new housing development started in May to develop a master plan for the new mixed income community. Meanwhile, construction began on a new Valley Branch library.

During the summer, the Leland Avenue Streetscape project commenced in redesigning the business district of Visitacion Valley into a vibrant green street. And on October 7, a state-of-the-art golf-earning center was dedicated at Visitacion Valley Middle School.

### Proposed High Speed Train Would Pass Through Valley

by Russel Morine

High speed "Bullet Trains" capable of traveling at speeds of nearly 200 m.p.h. are coming to California. Envisioned as a reliable and economical alternative to travel by air, the \$42 billion dollar California High Speed Train project will link Downtown San Francisco to Downtown Los Angeles by nearly 700 miles of railroad track.

When completed in the mid 2020s, the sleek electric trains will be able to make the City to city trip in just under 2.5 hours. No matter what city they start or end their journey, at some point each train must pass through Visitacion Valley to arrive at their final destination.

Locally, the Bullet Trains will share the existing rails with Caltrain, but they will bypass most regional platforms including the Bayshore Station on Tunnel Road. Does this mean that the benefits of this statewide mega project will also bypass Visitacion Valley? Not if an early proposal to create an overnight service yard in our community becomes a reality.

As explained by Dominic Spaethling, regional project manager for the S.F. to San Jose rail segment, at a recent community meeting the rolling stock (trains) will need a convenient staging area to park overnight. This staging area

will allow workers to inspect, repair, clean, and prep trains for the next day of service.

Mr. Spaethling stated that the ideal site should be at least 90 acres and as close as possible to the Downtown SF station (this would avoid sending empty trains a long distance to the staging yard after the last run of the day). The undeveloped southern parts of Mission Bay in San Francisco and the Baylands just south of the S.F. county line in Brisbane have been tentatively identified as possible sites. The Mission Bay site is close enough to the SF terminal, but may not be large enough to store the 26-28 trains needed for the northern segment.

At nearly 500+ acres, The Baylands would be large enough and although it is not in S.F., it's still close enough to the S.F. terminal to make the site suitable. Not lost on those with a little knowledge of Visitacion Valley's history is the fact that much of The Baylands existence is owed to its original use as Southern Pacific rail car classification yard (follow this link for a brief history of the Bayshore Yard [www.rattenne.com/nrhs/Bayshore1.htm](http://www.rattenne.com/nrhs/Bayshore1.htm)).

Unfortunately, as explained by Mr. Spaethling, the site's owners, Universal Paragon Corporation (UPC) and the residents of Brisbane have spent years envisioning a future for the vast

site that never included a return to an industrial rail-centric use. At this time, neither UPC nor the City of Brisbane have publicly supported or dismissed the idea.

When asked how many permanent jobs would be generated at a site located within Visitacion Valley, Mr. Spaethling stated that it would be in the hundreds. One attendee pointed out that the current UPC proposal also includes hundreds of post construction jobs given that Brisbane allows no housing on the site.

The reaction to the proposal was decidedly mixed. One long time resident felt that the neighborhood does not need yet another industrial "blight" while another long time resident reminded the attendees that Visitacion Valley's history was built around rail roads and blue collar jobs.

The rail yard discussions are still very preliminary. If the Baylands site moves forward, community input will be needed to determine how best a rail yard can be integrated into UPC's mixed use plan. If The Baylands site does not move forward, residents of Visitacion Valley can still wave to the Bullet Trains and the millions of dollars of lost investment as they bypass our neighborhood.

For more information about the California High Speed Rail project: <http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov>

### Star-Brite Daycare Opened by Visitacion Valley Native

by Betty Parshall

Star-Brite Daycare had an open-house last month and the announcement on the Valley Eye message board caught this reporter's eye when Jasmine Ward mentioned that she is a native of Visitacion Valley. Some small visitors were busy testing the toys available while Jasmine shared some of her family history.

Jasmine was born in the house that now accommodates the daycare facility. Remarkably, her dad bought the house when he was only seventeen years old. Jasmine attended Visitacion Valley Elementary School through the third grade. The family then

moved to Fairfield where she and her four siblings attended school. Her father, Marcus Ward, was employed at Sunset Scavengers while her mother, Tosha, operated the beauty shop on Blanken Avenue for twenty-five years. Both were graduates of Balboa High School. So although the family home was in Fairfield, they continued to maintain a close relationship with the Valley.

Jasmine went on to earn her Certificate as a preschool teacher and worked in various childcare establishments for ten years. She learned how much she enjoyed being a part of the children's early years, so when she moved back to the family home on

Arleta Avenue in 2008 she decided to open her own business. She aims at providing an environment in which children can explore and enjoy learning since she observes that they "soak up education" naturally and will be ready for kindergarten when the time comes.

Jasmine is licensed by the State for fourteen children and offers healthy meals, activities, outdoor play and field trips and a preschool curriculum and structure. She also offers flexible hours for families who work nights or attend school. For more information you can contact her at (415) 656-1887 or (707) 720-9479. Her license number is 384001956.

### Payday Lending Program for City

Mayor Gavin Newsom and Treasurer José Cisneros on Dec. 17 announced the launch of Payday Plus SF, an alternative payday loan offered by six San Francisco Credit Unions that will provide responsible small dollar loans of up to \$500, with low interest rates, financial counseling, and an extended repayment term.

The program is designed to help San Franciscans avoid high-interest rate payday loans that often trap borrowers in a cycle of debt.

For-profit payday lenders may charge annual interest rates of over 400 percent, and the industry relies for 90 percent of their revenue on borrowers who repeatedly renew or re-open their payday loans.

As a result, the typical borrower usually pays around \$500 in interest for a \$300 loan, and still owes the principal, according to the Center for Responsible Lending.

"Payday Plus SF is designed to promote healthy financial practices," said Mayor Newsom. "It is the latest in a series of successful financial empowerment programs spearheaded by Treasurer Cisneros, and following upon the great work of Bank on San Francisco. Programs like these are what make San Francisco a national leader in the field of financial empowerment."

Key elements of the payday loans offered through Payday Plus SF include:

- \*A non-predatory rate: A short-term loan of up to \$500 with a maximum APR of 18 percent.

- \*Improved credit: The ability to build credit as the loan is repaid over a period of up to 12 months.

- \*Reduced debt: The ability to escape debt by paying off payday loans and consolidating other debts.

- \*Access to healthy financial partners: Credit Unions are non-profits with a wide array of healthy financial products and a commitment to working closely with their members.

- \*Responsibility: Limit of three loans per year. Financial education may be required. Loan must be paid in full before another advance.

"Our credit union partners show real commitment to the community by stepping up to offer this prod-

uct," said Treasurer Cisneros. "It is dramatically better than traditional payday loans, which come with interest rates above 400 percent APR and trap lenders in a debt cycle. I applaud our credit unions for working with the City to show that lending can be done responsibly."

The six credit union members of the Bank On San Francisco program worked with the Office of the Treasurer to design Payday Plus SF, and will be offering the product at 13 credit union locations across San Francisco.

"The participating San Francisco area credit unions have partnered with the City of San Francisco in developing an alternative to the high costs of payday lending to support those in need in our community," said Steven Stapp, President and CEO of San Francisco Federal Credit Union.

"Too many San Franciscans turn to payday loans as a short-term solution and end up instead in a long-term debt trap," said Anne Stuhldreher, Senior Fellow at the New America Foundation. "There are now more payday lending establishments in California than McDonalds and Starbucks combined. We need financial institutions to step up with better products, like PayDay Plus SF, and policymakers should enact more robust consumer protections."

Payday Plus SF will be offered at the following credit unions:

- \*Mission SF Federal Credit Union, (415) 431-2268, 3269 Mission St.

- \*Northeast Community Federal Credit Union, (415) 434-0738, 683 Clay St., 288 Jones St., 29 Leland Ave.

- \*Patelco Credit Union, (415) 442-6200, 156 2nd St., 1405 Noriega St., 65 Southgate Ave. (Daly City)

- \*Redwood Credit Union, (800) 479-7928, 100 Van Ness Ave., 241 California St.,

- \*San Francisco Federal Credit Union, (800) 852-7598, 770 Golden Gate Ave., 4375 Geary Blvd., 2645 Ocean Ave.,

- \*Spectrum Federal Credit Union, (800) 782-8782, 50 Beale St.

In addition, interested customers can call the United Way's helpline at 2-1-1 and ask for Payday Plus SF to be connected to a nearby participating credit union.

### Legislation for Tax Relief to Businesses Partnering with Healthy San Francisco

Mayor Gavin Newsom introduced legislation Dec. 15 to grant local small businesses a payroll tax credit against the costs of participating in Healthy San Francisco. The legislation will provide businesses with 20-49 employees an annual \$2,000 payroll tax credit to help offset the cost of providing health care to workers.

"With this legislation, we are incentivizing and rewarding small businesses who are stepping up to the plate and participating in providing health care to employees," said Mayor Newsom. "The Healthy San Francisco Small Business Tax Credit will help ensure small businesses continue to be an engine of new job creation and economic recovery on the road to achieving our goal of universal health care."

If all qualifying businesses participate, the projected cost would be approximately \$4 million, not including administration expenses.

Mayor Newsom also introduced legislation, co-sponsored by Supervisor Eric Mar, to help finance new residential and commercial renewable energy projects and energy and water efficiency in San Francisco.

The new San Francisco Sustainable Financing Program (SF2) and San Francisco Sustainable Financing Special District allows building owners to access affordable,

city-sponsored financing for energy efficiency, renewable energy and water conservation improvements.

Solar panels, insulation, water-saving bathroom fixtures, and energy-efficient heaters and boilers are among the list of improvements that could be purchased and installed in residential, commercial or industrial buildings under the SF2 Program.

The program allows the City to lend up to \$50,000 per property owner for improvements.

The repayment obligation will be attached to the property, rather than the individual, and will be paid back through property taxes over the life of the financing.

The program is unique from other cities using property-tax repayment models because unlike other cities using their own investment funds or tax dollars, SF2 will leverage private market lending and available state and federal grant dollars.

Finally, the Mayor introduced the Green Landscaping Ordinance, co-sponsored by Supervisor Carmen Chu, which will integrate standard greening principles with environmental benefits.

The legislation will provide clear guidelines in the planning code regarding tree planting; permeability requirements (to reduce water run-off and increase watershed function); decorative fencing; and greening.



## Grapevine Mailbox

### Holiday Safety Tips

San Francisco SAFE, Inc. (Safety Awareness for Everyone) is a non-profit organization that guides residents, business owners, and community members to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods. SAFE partners with the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) to provide crime prevention education and organizing support for communities and Neighborhood Watch groups. Here are some holiday tips from SF Safe.

#### Pickpocketing and Robbery

\*Only carry a limited amount of cash and few credit cards on you.

\*Keep valuables like keys, cell phone and money in separate pockets.

\*Stay in well-lit, well-traveled areas.

\*Be aware of your surroundings and suspicious persons, especially in parking garages, on public transportation, or in crowded places.

#### Auto Break-ins

\*Keep your car locked at all times; never leave your car running, even "just for a minute."

\*Do not leave anything visible in your car.

\*If you place shopping bags in your car trunk, do so before parking or move your car to a different location.

#### Home Burglaries

\*Keep all windows and doors locked at all times.

\*Keep wrapped gifts and valuables out of public view or away from windows where people can see them.

\*If going on vacation, have a trusted neighbor watch your house, stop your mail and newspaper deliveries, use a timed light, and an alarm if you have one.

\*Do not advertise that you are going on vacation, such as on your voicemail or on social networking websites.

\*Consider having SAFE perform a free home security assessment.

SAFE offers services to merchants including Business Watch organizing; loss prevention trainings; and business security assessments.

### Dangerous Garden Snake?

Garden snakes can be dangerous. Yes, garden snakes, not rattlesnakes. Here's why:

A couple in Sweetwater, Texas had a lot of potted plants. During a recent cold spell, the wife was bringing a lot of them indoors to protect them from a possible freeze.

It turned out that a little green garden grass snake was hidden in one of the plants. When it had warmed up, it slithered out and the wife saw it go under the sofa.

She let out a very loud scream.

The husband (who was taking a shower) ran out into the living room to see what the problem was. She told him there was a snake under the sofa.

He got down on the floor on his hands and knees to look for it. About that time the family dog came and cold-nosed him on the behind. He thought the snake had bitten him, so he screamed and fell over on the floor.

His wife thought he had had a heart attack, so she covered him up, told him to lie still and called an ambulance.

The attendants rushed in, would not listen to his protests, loaded him on the stretcher, and started carrying him out.

About that time, the snake came out from under the sofa and the Emergency Medical Technician saw it and

dropped his end of the stretcher. That's when the man broke his leg and why he is still in the hospital.

The wife still had the problem of the snake in the house, so she called on a neighbor who volunteered to capture the snake. He armed himself with a rolled-up newspaper and began poking under the couch. Soon he decided it was gone and told the woman, who sat down on the sofa in relief.

But while relaxing, her hand dangled in between the cushions, where she felt the snake wriggling around. She screamed and fainted, the snake rushed back under the sofa.

The neighbor man, seeing her lying there passed out, tried to use CPR to revive her.

The neighbor's wife, who had just returned from shopping at the grocery store, saw her husband's mouth on the woman's mouth and slammed her husband in the back of the head with a bag of canned goods, knocking him out and cutting his scalp to a point where it needed stitches.

The noise woke the woman from her dead faint and she saw her neighbor lying on the floor with his wife bending over him, so she assumed that the snake had bitten him. She went to the kitchen and got a small bottle of whiskey, and began pouring it down the man's throat.

By now, the police had arrived.

They saw the unconscious man, smelled the whiskey, and assumed that a drunken fight had occurred. They were about to arrest them all, when the women tried to explain how it all happened over a little garden snake.

The police called an ambulance, which took away the neighbor and his sobbing wife.

Now, the little snake again crawled out from under the sofa and one of the policemen drew his gun and fired at it. He missed the snake and hit the leg of the end table. The table fell over, the lamp on it shattered and, as the bulb broke, it started a fire in the drapes.

The other policeman tried to beat out the flames, and fell through the window into the yard on top of the family dog who, startled, jumped out and raced into the street, where an oncoming car swerved to avoid it and smashed into the parked police car.

Meanwhile, neighbors saw the burning drapes and called in the fire department. The firemen had started raising the fire ladder when they were halfway down the street. The rising ladder tore out the overhead wires, put out the power, and disconnected the telephones in a ten-square city block area (but they did get the house fire out).

Time passed! Both men were discharged from the hospital, the house was repaired, the dog came home, the police acquired a new car and all was right with their world.

A while later they were watching TV and the weatherman announced a cold snap for that night. The wife asked her husband if he thought they should bring in their plants for the night.

### Funds for Park Restoration

Hello fellow park advocates. I have some great news to share with you that might brighten your holiday season.

At a formal ceremony that just took place at City Hall, Help McLaren Park group was awarded 65K toward our restoration project on Burrows Street. This reward came to us after applying to the Community Challenge Grant in September. I am not sure, but I think this was one of the largest awards given. Over a half million was awarded this time around — 1.2 million since the beginning of 2009.

They had an overwhelming number of applicants and the competition was fierce. We are extremely blessed for this incredible amount bestowed upon us.

In combination with our 2K grant from Parks Trust, 12K from the budget (thanks to supervisor John Avalos), and roughly \$1,000 we have accumulated from our own community efforts, we can venture to say we will be celebrating a new play area and restoration in McLaren Park in 2010.

This is incredible news and it is now in the hands of our park planners on how and where this play area will be installed. Of course, there will be community input and future meetings in the new year to finalize the details but remember, we are limited in size by the amount of money we have accumulated thus far. So though this might not be the big play structure for all ages, appropriate for Yosemite Marsh or Shelley Drive, it will be a significant improvement to a severely underrepresented side of our park. There will sure to be as much done as possible to make everyone happy, to better an area of the park, by using community support and volunteerism. And hopefully with continued support, we can move on to another area of the park in desperate need and continue the beautification process and make McLaren Park a safer and more enjoyable place for all ages.

Happy Holidays Everyone!

Eat well, stay safe and be merry!!!

Chuck & Trice Farrugia

## New Laws Ring In the New Year

by Senator Mark Leno

Much of last year's legislative business in Sacramento was rightly focused on our state budget and the difficult decisions we needed to make in order to keep California moving forward. At the same time, our office also worked on many bills that will impact the lives of many Californians, including constituents throughout the Third Senate District.

On January 1, ten bills that I authored this past year will become law. These bills, which the Governor signed in October, address important statewide issues, including the rights of tenants and seniors and our rising prison admissions. Our 2009 legislative package also addressed issues in our district, including the revitalization of the state's only urban state park and the expansion of renewable energy in San Francisco.

Two bills going into law in the new year also mark significant milestones for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. Our Harvey Milk Day bill pays honor to the late Supervisor, California's first openly gay elected official, for his leadership on many issues and most notably the civil rights of LGBT people. Another bill clarifies the rights of same-sex couples who married outside of California but had been left in legal limbo following the passage of Proposition 8. These two landmark measures again illustrate that California is a state that believes in treating all people with respect and dignity.

Of the 12 bills I authored that passed the full Legislature, two were vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger, including a measure that would have banned gun shows at Cow Palace. While I am disappointed with the veto of that bill and another one that addressed public works contracts, my office is committed to resolving issues that are important to my constituents.

Below is a synopsis of the ten bills

## Program Put 1,200 People Back to Work

Mayor Gavin Newsom recently announced that the San Francisco JOBS NOW program has used federal stimulus funds to put 1,200 San Franciscans back to work, and is seeking an additional 1,300 job participants before the funds expire September 2010. Additionally, the Mayor outlined the JOBS NOW marketing campaign launching this month with Muni and other city partners, as well as his efforts to secure funding from Congress and the White House to extend the JOBS NOW program past September 2010.

"In the midst of the nation's economic crisis, San Francisco's JOBS NOW program is finding ways to put people back to work and stimulating our city's local economic recovery," said Mayor Newsom. "As President Obama puts the national focus on job creation, lawmakers in Washington need to take notice of one of the stimulus' success stories here in San Francisco."

The JOBS NOW! Program benefits local employers by providing referrals of qualified workers and by subsidizing 100 percent of their wages until September 30, 2010 (when the federal funding expires).

The program is funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) which includes \$5 billion nationwide to create the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Emergency Contingency Fund (TANF-ECF), which provides federal funds to pay for subsidized employment programs. California will receive \$1.8 billion of the \$5 billion to pass through to counties for this program. San Francisco is expected to use almost \$25 million, with a goal of placing 2,500 participants in jobs between May 2009 and September 2010.

The Obama administration recently requested that the San Francisco Mayor's office compile a report on the JOBS NOW program to inform the administration as they move forward in setting job and economic policies. The JOBS NOW report will recommend that the City receive an extension to keep the program past September 2010, and also seek additional sources of funding to allow the program to move forward without the requirement that applicants have a dependant.

The Mayor also held a business roundtable meeting with small businesses in San Francisco, and asked that they join him in putting people to work. The Mayor encouraged their partnership with the City and the JOBS NOW program, and requested they identify workers and refer them to the JOBS NOW program.

The City has also completed a new website, jobsnowsf.org, and will begin this month an intense marketing effort citywide.

Interested participants can apply to enroll in JOBS NOW by calling 1-877-JOB NOW or 311 or by visiting the HSA website at www.jobsnowsf.org.

that will go into law on January 1: *Senate Bill 54 – Out-of-State Marriages*

Resolves ambiguities about how out-of-state marriages between same-sex couples will be recognized in California.

*Senate Bill 290 – Tenant 60-Day Notice*

Eliminates the sunset on an existing state law that requires landlords to give tenants 60-day notice when issuing no-cause evictions.

Creates a day of special significance every May 22nd, Harvey Milk Day, in California to honor the state's first openly gay elected official.

*Senate Bill 581 – Renewable Generation Expansion*

Allows the City and County of San Francisco to supply its municipal power needs with as much renewable generation energy as possible by expanding a financial credit mechanism that is currently designated only for solar energy generation.

*Senate Bill 678 – California Community Corrections Performance Incentive Act of 2009*

Creates a program that would share state savings with community probation programs when they improve supervision of felony probationers and, as a result, help lower California's prison admissions and the crime rates in our communities.

*Senate Bill 748 – Witness Protection Assistance*

Prohibits the internet posting of any information that may personally identify a participant of the California Witness Relocation and Assistance Program if the intent is to cause bodily harm or incite violence.

*Senate Bill 781 – Senior Eviction Protections*

Requires residential care facilities for the elderly to provide eviction notices that inform residents of their legal rights and protections before tenants are forced to leave their homes.

*Senate Bill 792 – Candlestick Point Recreation Area*

Reconfigures the boundaries of San Francisco's Candlestick Point Recreation Area in exchange for \$50 million for improvements and future operation and maintenance of this important state park.

*Senate Bill 804 – Mobile Home Relocation Protection*

Prohibits the management at a mobile home park from interfering in the park resident's selection of a broker, dealer or agent needed to complete an installation or purchase of a replacement home, which may be necessary after a loss.

*Senate Bill 588 – Sex Offender Management Board*

Deletes the January 1, 2010 sunset of the Sex Offender Management Board, which works to decrease sexual victimization and increase community safety.

The following bills were vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger:

*Senate Bill 585 – Cow Palace Gun Show Ban*

Would have prohibited gun shows at the state-owned Cow Palace, which is located partly in the City and County of San Francisco and partly in Daly City and San Mateo County.

*Senate Bill 802 – Public Works Reform*

Would have capped at 5 percent the amount that a public entity may withhold in payment due to contractors on public works contracts.

I am honored to serve as your representative in the Third Senate District, and am always interested in your thoughts and suggestions. If you have ideas for new legislation, need more information about these new laws, or would like to voice your opinion on any matter, please contact my office. You can call our district offices in San Francisco (415-557-1300) and San Rafael (415-479-6612) or contact us by email, Senator.Leno@senate.ca.gov, or the web www.sen.ca.gov/Leno.

Senator Mark Leno represents the Third Senate District of California, which includes portions of San Francisco and Sonoma Counties and all of Marin County.

## News Biz from Little Vis

### Computer Literacy

Beginning in January, Visitacion Valley Elementary School (VVES) librarian, Mr. Lam will teach basic computer literacy to all students during their library time. He will encourage students to practice their newly learned skills with computers in their classrooms or at home.

### Test Preparation

In order to prepare for the California Standards Test (CST) in April, "Test Ready" booklets in Reading and Math were sent home with VVES students during the Winter break.

### Caring School Community

VVES is in its second year of implementing positive school climate progress while working on the following weekly social skills:

- \*Looking at a person talking and listening quietly.
- \*Keeping the school yard and restrooms clean.
- \*Respecting other's personal space.
- \*Keeping hands and feet to one's self.

**GRAPEVINE**  
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# An Opportunity to “Pay it Forward”

by Assemblywoman Fiona Ma

Before becoming a public servant and elected member of the California State Assembly, I was a practicing Certified Public Accountant (CPA). While I liked, and was good at working with numbers, I knew I wanted to do something else, something more fulfilling. So I decided to scale back my work hours as a CPA and spend some time working as a field representative for former President Pro Tem of the California State Senate, John Burton. After a few weeks on the job, I knew I had found what I was truly meant to do in life – serve and represent Californians. But finding what I’m most passionate about in life didn’t just happen – someone helped show me the way, someone took the time to mentor me.

Growing up, were there people in your life who encouraged you, showed you the ropes, and helped you become the person you are today? Apart from marking a new year, January presents an opportunity for you to “pay it forward” and take part in National Mentoring Month.

Most successful people say they had mentors that guided and encouraged them. General Colin Powell points to the influence of his father; Oprah Winfrey cites a fourth-grade teacher who taught her to believe in herself. Others that have mentioned the importance of mentors in their lives include Tom Brokaw, Maya Angelou, Clint Eastwood, Edward James Olmos, Tim Russert, Mike Wallace, Sting and President Obama. In fact, the Harvard Mentoring Project has been conducting videotaped interviews and collecting written essays in which these and other prominent people talk about the mentors that have influenced them.

In a landmark study conducted by the research group Public/Private Ventures (P/PV) of 1,000 people, mostly urban youth ages 10 through 14, researchers found that those engaged in mentoring were significantly more likely than those without mentors to have developed the attitudes and habits that can help ensure success.

This and other research consistently shows that mentoring is a highly effective strategy for preventing several key problems that young people face, including school violence, drug abuse, and dropping out of school. Mentoring provides information, opportunities, nurturing, and support.

And now, with so many state programs for youth being cut, the need for mentors is particularly important. It is a way to help California’s children and adolescents in the face of this staggering economy without spending money.

National Mentoring Month is an opportunity for you to give back to your community to show a young person what you were once shown.

By providing young people with role models and reliable sustained relationships with adults outside their immediate families, mentoring can play a key role in promoting successful outcomes for California’s youth.

## Education Beyond High School: Apply for a Cal Grant!

Recent education trends in California show the State ranks near the bottom ten in the United States for high school students going directly to college. With nearly 400,000 California high school seniors in 2010, we need to aggressively raise awareness about the availability of Cal Grants as an option for financial aid to low- and middle-income students. Cal Grants are one of the smartest ways to get cash for college because it’s money you don’t have to pay back.

Last year, Democrats in the Legislature fought off a proposal by the Governor to eliminate the Cal Grant Program from the 2009-2010 budget during the tough year-long negotiations. Today, the Cal Grant

Program ensures that a grant will be available for every qualified student.

It should be the mission of all Californians to keep students moving forward with their education no matter what their circumstances. A remarkable statistic from the California Student Aid Commission shows that more than 90 percent of Cal Grant recipients attending two or four year schools re-enroll for a second year.

This effort to publicize the Cal Grant program is part of a commitment to reducing financial barriers to pursuing a post-high school education. It is not only good for the social structure of California, but also will help the State maintain its competitive economic edge.

Students and families can get help for applying for a Cal Grant by attending workshops that I will be hosting throughout the community in February. To apply for a Cal Grant, students must fill out and submit two forms: a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and a Cal Grant GPA verification form. Other financial and academic eligibility requirements apply. Students and families can visit [www.calgrants.org](http://www.calgrants.org) or call my office to learn more about the Cal Grants program, find the forms they need, or visit one of my local workshops.

Now, more than ever, the Cal Grant program provides a viable alternative for many students who are uncertain about furthering their education after high school, either because they feel they cannot afford it or because they have less than perfect grades.

It is important to keep students motivated about continuing their education. We can do that by spreading the word about the availability of financial aid and helping to point them toward success.

## Legislation Enacted January 1

On January 1, 2010, landmark legislation I authored was enacted. During the 2009 Legislative Session I successfully moved 14 bills to the Governor’s desk. Of the 14 bills, Governor Schwarzenegger signed 7.

Below are summaries of some of the landmark legislation.

## AB 144 – Disability Placards

Last year in San Francisco, law enforcement confiscated over 1,000 illegal disabled placards. The widespread abuse has not only taken away parking opportunities for people who really need them, but has also exacerbated the difficult parking environment in San Francisco. The current penalty is a \$100 fine. AB 144 not only increases the fine for fraudulent use to \$1,000, but also gives parking control officers the ability to cite violators. Currently, only police officers have the ability to cite violators in many instances.

## AB 606 – Blueberry Commission

With the recent news about the health benefits of blueberries, demand for the commodity has increased. AB 606 creates the California Blueberry Commission, which will grow the state’s economy at no cost to the general fund to ensure that California’s agriculture industry will reap the benefits of the increase in demand. Specifically, the Commission will provide programs for education, promotion, marketing, and research relating to blueberries. Unlike other state commissions, all of the 19 commodity commissions are 100% funded by growers.

## AB 1020 (Emmerson and Ma) Dangerous Pool Drains

AB 1020 increases pool safety for our children by requiring California’s public swimming pools to increase their safety standards by installing anti-entrapment drain covers to prevent unnecessary deaths as a result of drowning. Drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death among children ages 1 to 14 in the United States. There were 74 documented

incidents of circulation entrapment reported to the Consumer Product Safety Commission between 1999 and 2007, including 9 fatalities and 63 injuries, in which 54 of these incidents involved children under the age of 15.

## AB 1209 – Mobile Identification Booking Act of 2009

AB 1209 will allow law enforcement to use mobile fingerprinting identification (ID) devices to capture fingerprints in the field when arrestees do not have proper ID or when the arrestee voluntarily agrees to a field booking. This tech-

nology not only brings efficiency to the criminal justice system, but it also allows law enforcement to spend more time in the field.

## AB 1203 – Ferry Funding

AB 1203 would improve the way Prop 1B funds are allocated to emergency and disaster relief agencies like the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency, and ensure that transportation projects are not jeopardized by bureaucracy, by administering funds with up-front allocations rather than by reimbursement.

For more information on legislation visit [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov).

# Loan Program to Finance Next Wave Of San Francisco Renewable Energy

Mayor Gavin Newsom recently announced legislation to help finance new residential and commercial renewable energy projects and energy and water efficiency in San Francisco. The new San Francisco Sustainable Financing Program (SF2) and San Francisco Sustainable Financing Special District allows building owners to access affordable, city-sponsored financing for energy efficiency, renewable energy and water conservation improvements. The repayment obligation will be attached to the property, rather than the individual, and will be paid back through property taxes over the life of the financing.

“San Francisco Sustainable Financing will help residential and commercial property owners finance the next wave of renewable energy development in San Francisco,” said Mayor Newsom. “This innovative program will not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions, it will also fuel the continued expansion of green jobs in San Francisco.”

SF2 is unique from other cities using property-tax repayment models in that it will finance not just solar photovoltaics, but a range of renewable energy, energy efficiency and water conservation improvements. Additionally, unlike other cities using their own investment funds or tax dollars, SF2 will leverage private market lending and available state and federal grant dollars.

“San Francisco Sustainable Financing will help home and business owners overcome the large upfront costs of solar, energy and water efficiency improvements by financing these costs over up to 20 years,” said Supervisor Eric Mar, who will co-sponsor the legislation at the Board of Supervisors. “This visionary program will reduce our impact on the environment, dramatically reduce home and business utility bills and create a boom in green jobs in San Francisco.”

Almost half of San Francisco’s greenhouse gas emissions come from energy use in local buildings, while older and wasteful fixtures and appliances strain California’s limited water resources. Initial costs are often prohibitive to improving energy and water use efficiency within building renovation. In July 2008, the City launched its highly successful solar energy incentive program, GoSolarSF, which doubled the number of so-

lar installations in San Francisco, in just one year.

Financing for the program will be structured through the establishment of a Citywide “Mello-Roos” Special Tax District. Owners of individual properties would apply to join the district. In return for opting into the district and agreeing to pay a special tax in amounts tailored to repay the financing over the life of the improvements, the building owner would receive funds to pay the up-front cost of the approved project. No resident or building owner will pay this special tax unless they choose to opt into the program and finance energy and water upgrades.

The program uses private capital to fund the retrofits. The City is also applying for grant dollars under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to ensure the program lowers the financial barriers to entry in the renewable energy, energy/water efficiency retrofit market for low-income City homeowners and nonprofit affordable housing providers as well.

## Financing Highlights

• Establishes a citywide “Mello-Roos” Special Tax District.

• Residential and commercial buildings of all sizes will be eligible.

• Some of the eligible upgrades include: insulation, replacing windows, upgrading heating systems; water efficiency upgrades – such as installing low flow toilets, potable water offsets, irrigation measures, storm water management improvements; financing will also be available for installation of renewable energy generation on buildings, such as solar arrays, solar water heaters and wind turbines

• Program phases in a mandate of a whole home energy efficiency audit and the installation of energy efficiency upgrades before renewable energy generation improvements.

• Private capital to fund the retrofits through Renewable Funding, LLC.

• Program participants can deduct the interest component of their solar financing tax on their tax returns.

• Similar programs exist currently in Berkeley and Sonoma, and others are under development around the state, but San Francisco’s is the most aggressive and includes comprehensive water and energy efficiency improvements as well as renewable generation like solar.

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# Rebuilding Credit After Bankruptcy

by Jason Alderman

No one takes the decision to declare bankruptcy lightly. Besides being an expensive, time-consuming and awkward process, bankruptcy can have serious and long-lasting impacts on your credit score, which in turn may affect your ability to borrow money, rent an apartment or even get a job.

Whether you are emerging from bankruptcy, paying off accumulated debt or just starting out financially and looking to avoid future mishaps, there are several steps you can take to build – or rebuild – stronger credit:

Monitor your credit. Negative information such as late payments, tax liens and foreclosures can remain on your credit reports for many years – up to 10 years for bankruptcy. On the other hand, once you reestablish sound credit habits, such as paying bills on time and lowering balances owed, your credit score should start rising within months.

To ensure your improved credit behavior is being reported properly, periodically review your credit reports from the three major credit bureaus: Equifax ([www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)), Experian ([www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)) and Trans Union ([www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)). You can order one free report a year from each bureau through [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com).

Reestablish creditworthiness. One way to demonstrate your ability to repay debt properly (thereby later qualifying for more favorable lending terms) is to open a secured credit card linked to a savings account you maintain. Typically, you can only charge up to the amount on deposit, which prevents you from charging more than you can afford.

Look for a secured card:

• That will convert to an unsecured (regular) credit card with more favorable terms after you’ve made several on-time payments

• That has zero or low annual and application fees and a low interest rate

• Whose lender will consider reporting your payment history to all three credit bureaus

Be mindful of monthly usage fees and other charges that can deplete your balance. Try your credit union or go to websites such as [www.bankrate.com](http://www.bankrate.com), [www.cardratings.com](http://www.cardratings.com) or [www.indexcreditcards.com](http://www.indexcreditcards.com) to compare rates and terms.

Secured loans from a credit union or bank work in a similar manner: You take out a loan backed by a savings account. Your loan’s interest rate will be higher than the savings account earns, but successfully paying it off should boost your credit score.

Pay on time. The single most important thing you can do to improve your credit is to always pay at least the minimum due on all bills on time. Consider signing up for automatic payments from your checking, savings or credit card account if this is a recurring problem.

Curtail amounts owed. Another major credit-scoring factor is credit utilization, which measures how much of each account’s credit limit you tap, as well as how much you’ve borrowed as a percentage of your total available credit. Aim for 30 percent utilization or less, even if you pay off balances each month.

Educate yourself. Oftentimes, creditors will refer customers experiencing debt problems to financial education courses like Money Choices, an online program sponsored by Visa Inc. ([www.moneychoices.com](http://www.moneychoices.com)), where they can learn step-by-step how credit works, budgeting, credit repair tips, debt collectors, financial hardship planning, and much more. Money Choices is free, self-paced and can be accessed by anyone.

## Visitacion Valley’s Neighborhood Newspaper “The Grapevine” Mail Delivery 12 Issues for \$10

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# McLaren Park News and Notes

by Betty Parshall  
**Looking Back**

This year started with the sighting of a mystery bird appeared perched on a very tall tree and presenting a seemingly all-gray coat. Several exited bird lovers engaged in message board discussions trying to identify the bird, since it didn't look like the usual red tail or red shoulder hawks commonly seen. But one day another dog walker and I saw it sail overhead, and the tail was a lovely red. Mystery solved.

The coot pair who raised six little coots at McNabb Lake delighted bird watchers too. Since this pair didn't fly the coop when their fellow coots did, we're hoping they decide to raise another batch this coming spring.

Dedicated volunteers did good work during the year. The Volunteers of Outdoor California put in a weekend building a switchback trail from the tennis court area down to McNabb, and also did a great deal of trail repair above the golf course and at the Crocker Amazon area. If you haven't walked the University Hill trail yet, try it out. On a clear day the views are great and the gentle slope of the trail makes for easy walking.

One Brick also gave many hours maintaining and planting at Yosemite Marsh. And thanks to a few folks who pick up trash as they walk, and to the responsible dog walkers who pick up after the dogs.

First 5 San Francisco designed and installed a lovely mosaic mural on the planter at the children's playground at McNabb Lake.

Giant sequoias were discovered on the slope above the lake while volunteers were cleaning out a very unattractive campground. Now we know we have three varieties of redwoods in the park: the sequoias, coast redwoods, and dawn redwoods.

Thanks are offered to District Manager James Threat, who responded quickly to a request made in February to keep the restrooms opened seven days a week. We're glad to report that they are open and also kept in clean condition.

The Jerry Garcia Amphitheater was the setting for two great events, the annual Jerry Garcia Day concert and the presentation of "The Taming of the Shrew" by The Women's Will, an all female company.

A tiny tots class opened in September at the Louis Sutter Community Building, and a senior social session is also available there. The group picnic area finally saw the replacement of tabletops and benches completed, and the walls at the site were given a fresh coat of paint.

## Looking Forward

The Rec and Park Department attempted to lease the Louis Sutter Community building to a private vendor, which could have presented problems for community people wanting to use the space. No lease offer was received by the November deadline, so the department will continue to operate the building and provide programming for the time being.

The two-month-old vacancy in the McLaren's maintenance supervisor position has been filled. Our new supervisor is Zach Taylor, who was previously with the Department of Public Works. He can be reached at (415) 337-4700.

Advocates for a disc golf course in McLaren Park are working on a course layout. Watch for announcements of community input meetings sometime in the next few months.

Best wishes to all our readers for a happy and healthy 2010.

## Leland Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project



Following are minutes of a meeting from October 21 from the Visual Arts Committee of the San Francisco Arts Commission concerning the Leland Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project.

Public Art Program Associate Mary Chou explained details of the Leland Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project and announced that the artist selection panel, which met on October 2nd, picked the proposal by Matthew Passmore/REBAR. The panel included the following participants: Department of Public Works Landscape Architect John Dennis, community members Anne Seeman and Marlene Tran, arts professionals Amy Trachtenberg and Rene de Guzman, and Arts Commissioner Lorraine Garcia-Nakata. Working with a budget of \$35,000, Mr. Passmore/REBAR's design currently consists of twenty poles topped with recycled parking meters coated in red automotive paint that will be donated by the Municipal Transportation Agency. The proposal also includes messages of welcome in different languages inscribed on the individual poles and solar lighting integrated within the meters. She explained that the proposal was inspired by the agricultural

history of Visitacion Valley and the nearby Visitacion Valley Greenway.

Ms. Chou explained that the panelists felt that Mr. Passmore/REBAR's proposal was a strong sculptural statement that was unique and reflected the neighborhood's focus on sustainability. The panel made some recommendations for the artist to change the color of the meterheads to a more orange-red color so that it does not look like matchsticks, and to further develop the content of the text and locate the text closer to the base of the panel so that the public could create rubbings of the raised text. Ms. Chou also stated that due to anticipated maintenance needs, Arts Commission staff would like to see the proposed solar elements replaced with reflective materials in order to take advantage of existing street lighting.

Ms. Chou concluded by explaining that the artist will also be working with the Department of Public Works in determining the placement of benches along the sidewalk adjacent to the artwork and that the remainder of the project budget will be approved at a later date after Mr. Passmore/REBAR refines the design.

## New Legislation Will Create Jobs and Improve Seismic Safety

Mayor Newsom on Dec. 16 introduced two pieces of legislation that will create jobs, improve seismic safety and reform city pensions and benefits to curtail rising costs.

The seismic safety legislation, co-sponsored by Board President David Chiu, and Supervisors John Avalos, David Campos, Bevan Dufty, and Ross Mirkarimi, proposes a \$652 million Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response (ESER) Bond for the June 2010 ballot. The ESER bond is recommended by the City's 10-year Capital Plan to safeguard and enhance San Francisco's earthquake and emergency response's earthiness by improving critical public safety infrastructure. The bond is part of a long-term strategic strategy to address capital infrastructure needs citywide.

"We must ensure that our aging auxiliary water system, public safety facilities, and neighborhood fire stations can withstand the next major earthquake so our police officers, firefighters and paramedics can respond to disaster immediately," said Mayor Newsom. "Rebuilding these critical emergency facilities and infrastructure will also create new jobs in construction and building trades at a time when they're needed most."

Specifically the bond will:

\*Retrofit the core facilities of the Auxiliary Water Supply System (AWSS): a nearly century old high pressure fire hydrant system.

\*Repair and make seismic safety improvements to neighborhood fire stations and build a new station in Mission Bay.

\*Co-locate the Office of the Medical Examiner & the Criminal Lab into a seismically safe Forensic Sciences Center. Relocate the police headquarters in Southern District Police Station from the Hall of Justice into seismically safe public safety buildings.

The Controller's Office estimates that 7.2 jobs are created from every \$1 million spent on construction related projects; creating approximately 4,600 jobs in San Francisco resulting from the ESER Bond.

Mayor Newsom also joined with Supervisor Sean Elsbernd to introduce pension reform legislation proposing amendments to the City Charter with the following provisions:

\*Payment of Employee Pension Contributions: In the past, the City agreed in labor negotiations to pay the employee contribution to the pension system. While most City labor agreements now provide that employees must pay their own contributions, there are several in which the City continues to pay all or part of the employee portion. Under the proposal, the City will be prohibited from agreeing to pay the employee retirement contribution in any new labor agreements. The terms of the labor agreements, including the impact of this amendment, would be subject to negotiations.

\*Three-year Averaging for Final Compensation: An employee's lifetime pension benefits are currently calculated using a formula based on the employee's single highest year of pay, which is in most cases the final year of employment. For all new employees, the proposal would use an average of the employee's salary for his or her three highest-paid years instead. This will help prevent wage inflation in the final year before retirement, thereby saving the City money, and providing an incentive for employees who are promoted at the end of their careers to stay with the City for a longer period of time. It will ensure that the final compensation utilized to establish employee pension benefits better represents career earnings.

\*Increase Employee Contribution for Safety Pension to 9 percent: Police officers, firefighters and miscellaneous safety employees pay seven and one-half percent (7.5 percent) of compensation for their pension benefits, which is the same percentage of compensation required of miscellaneous employees. However, the safety benefit is significantly more ex-

pensive than the miscellaneous employee pension benefit. The amendment would require all newly-hired police officers, firefighters and miscellaneous safety employees to pay nine percent (9 percent) of compensation to contribute to the cost of the pension benefits provided to them.

\*Require the City to Pay a Minimum Contribution for Pension or Retiree Health Benefits: Each year, the Retirement Board sets the employer contribution to the City's retirement fund by calculating the "normal cost" of providing the pension benefit, and any offsetting investment earnings that would reduce the City's required payment. In some years, the investment earnings and fund assets have so offset the normal cost that the City's contribution was reduced to very low levels. At the same time, the City has not pre-funded its retiree medical obligations. The amendment would require the City to make a minimum payment in years in which the re-

quired pension contributions fall below the normal cost. When contributions to the City's retirement fund are less than the normal cost, the difference between the normal cost and the required employer payment to the retirement fund will be deposited into the Retiree Health Care Trust Fund, to cover retiree health care expenses, or to "superfund" the pension system as a hedge against future lean years.

## Event in January at Valley Branch Library

Following is an event in January at the Visitacion Valley Branch Library, 45 Leland Ave.

\*Jan. 20, Wednesday, Teen Knitting Workshop from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Get out of the cold and into the library! Learn how to knit a simple wrist warmer. All materials provided. Space is limited. For more information or to reserve your spot contact Abby at (415) 355-2848 or aharwood@sfppl.org.

## Visitacion Valley History Project Truly Remarkable Valley Homes

by Betty Parshall

One of the homes visited on our Neighborhood History Walk in November is a remarkable example of preservation both of the building and documentation left there by the people who originally occupied it.

The house was built in 1906 and consisted of two stories with seven rooms. Both the 1910 and 1920 U.S. census reports list the same family in occupancy.

Louis M. Alexander was the head of the family. Living with him were his mother, Gotha Alexander, his sister, Sophia Hammer and her husband Nathan Hammer, and their two sons, Elias and Moritz L. (Leo).

Louis, Gotha and Sophia were born in Germany. Nathan Hammer was Hungarian. The two boys were born in California. The house is on Delta Street, but in the years of the two census reports the street name was Cowden.

We know that Leo Hammer married a woman named Rose, that they had one son, Joseph, and lived around the corner on Harkness Avenue. We also know that Leo worked for the US Post Office, and for many years was stationed at the Visitacion Valley post office. Leo and Rose were active in both the Visitacion Valley Improvement Association and the Reis Paul Tract Improvement Association. They were excellent folk dancers too, participating in the folk dance classes led by Tom Taylor at the Community Center.

In the 90s, the house came on the market and was sold "as is," and the new owner found that furnishings, artifacts and various pictures and documents had all been left in the building.

Mr. Alexander operated a liquor store, as evidenced by the liquor licenses tacked to beams in the basement. The licenses' place of business is the same address as the house, and as the basement has a very wide door with brick paving in the area behind it, it would appear that this is where the store was located. Customers probably entered from Harkness.

Visiting this home is like stepping back in time. The house and its surrounding brick walk, trees and shrubs reflect its early days, when Cowden Street and other nearby streets were still dirt roads, and the view from the front door was the undeveloped hillside that would one day be part of McLaren Park.

On Tioga Avenue is another fine old house, once occupied by the Pierce family. The house was built in 1910, and the Pierce family bought it in 1917. There were six children, and Harry, who was born in 1914, was one of our oral historians in 2003.

Harry described what living on the hill was like. "The meat market was down on Leland Avenue and Tony was the delivery boy. He'd come around in the morning and take an order and then deliver in the afternoon. I remember my mother saying to him, 'Tony, give me about a dollar and a half leg of mutton.' No lamb, it was always mutton, always a dollar and a half worth. For vegetables and fruit a fellow used to come around with a wagon. I remember one time she decided she was going to bottle some cherries and the stuff generated so much alcohol it blew the tops off."

The house had no heat except the coal and wood-burning stove in the kitchen, so it was very cold during the winter. Harry said he often mused about how hard life was for the women who cooked and cleaned and did the laundry in those days.

He recalled the farms located over the hill in what is now McLaren Park. One of the farmers would let Harry sit behind the horses when the wagon was hauling grapes to the farm for that family's annual grape crushing to make their home-brewed wine, one of the young boy's proudest moments.

Two of the Pierce children remained in the Valley when they were grown. Gladys married Glen Kirkpatrick and lived in a house on Rutland Street near Wilde. She was an active member of St. James Presbyterian Church for many years where she filled the jobs of church treasurer and secretary of the Sunday School. Elwood Pierce married Gladys Casey who he met while attending Tom Taylor's folk dancing class at the Center. He worked at Schlage Lock before being into the service during World War II. When he returned he didn't get his old job back, he was put in a janitor position. So he went back to school, earned his teaching certificate and eventually taught shop at Denman Junior High.

The Tioga Street home is much as it was originally, although one change is evident. There are now small, aluminum-framed windows under the peaked roof where there were once French doors. It was from those open French doors that Harry and his brother Elwood sailed their sisters' phonograph records out across the hillside onto the future Greenway.

Next month: another very fine old home on Tioga.



## ...from the desk of the VVBOOM newsroom



by Nick Wolff

### Can't Dampen Our Spirits

On a day where there was 100% chance of rain, the first concert in a series of live shows at the Hans Schiller Plaza in downtown Visitation Valley would have to wait for another day. So 'Leland Avenue Holiday Concert in the Park' organizers went to plan B. And with some help from our good friends at the Nayarit Taqueria (98 Leland Avenue), we were able to transform their banquet hall on the corner of Leland Ave. and Alpha St. into a festive holiday wonderland and concert venue. In the spirit of the holidays, the Leland Avenue business community joined forces

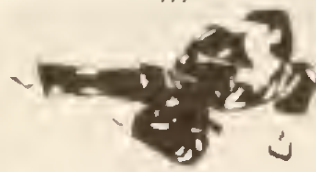


with the Visitation Valley Playground (San Francisco Rec and Park Dept.), the Visitation Valley Family Community Resource Center (VVFRC) and VVBOOM to pull off a great holiday concert event.

Despite periodic downpours throughout the afternoon, there was a strong showing of community support as neighbors came out to listen to some great live music, create holiday arts and crafts and enjoy a cup of hot cocoa. Many kids (and some adults) left the event with presents in hand as three activity stations sparked holiday creativity and aided those looking for that perfect personal gift. In one station, volunteers helped participants assemble unique wire-frame wreaths with pine tree branches decorated with ribbon, bows, holly and pine cones. Another station offered crafty kids the chance to paint their own holiday ornaments thanks to a generous donation from Beverly's Fabric & Crafts in Daly City. Finally, for those looking to enjoy their final product before they left, there was gingerbread cookie decorating (donated from Whole Foods, Portero Hill), including plentiful helpings of delicious frosting and cups of hot cocoa to wash it down.

Did I mention the top-notch live music? There was plenty of that, too. It started with the talented and always entertaining local 3-piece Sana and their infectious poppy-tropical-R&B-ukulele cohesion. Video footage of their set can be found on youtube.com by searching: "Visitation Valley Holiday Concert, Just a Friend." Next on stage was Paul Ellison, the

acoustic-folk rocker played his third impressive set in Visitation Valley this year, including some choice original cuts and a couple sing-along cover songs that left the crowd buzzing. Up next, Visitation Valley native Francisco Aviles, the "Acoustic Opera Warrior" treated listeners to his personal brand of classical opera and vocal-folk. Finally, KDM Jazz Group closed out the concert with some perfectly placed blue note jazz while managing to throw in a few recognizable holiday favorites to help set the mood. It was the perfect end to a Holiday Concert that didn't back down from the elements. Happy New Year!



### You Heard It Here First

2010 will be the year Leland Avenue is introduced to Kuk Sool Won. The Traditional Korean Martial Arts are headed to downtown Visitation Valley, as Jorge Liberona is set to open his studio 'Pu Sa Bum Nim' in the beautiful new 189 Leland Avenue storefront near Rutland Street. With a grand opening tentatively scheduled for late February, Jorge will be instructing three classes in the evenings during the week and three more on Saturday mornings. Martial Arts classes are available for anyone over the age of 5 regardless of experience from beginners to blackbelts. Kuk Sool Won can develop your strength, quickness, balance, timing, flexibility and coordination while sharpening your concentration, self-discipline and self-control. Additionally, practice will enhance circulation and digestion reduce back and joint pains, aid in weight loss and positively affect all aspects of your life ([www.kswnaustin.com/aboutksw/helpMe.php](http://www.kswnaustin.com/aboutksw/helpMe.php)).

At Pu Sa Bum Nim - 189 Leland Avenue, you'll be taught by one of the best. As chief instructor and owner Jorge began training in Kuk Sool Won in San Francisco in 1998 where he trained with Master Sun Jing Suh. He received his 1st Degree Black Belt in 2001. Jorge has currently achieved the level of 3rd Degree Black Belt and continues his training under the guidance of Master Sun Jing Suh. Jorge has competed in numerous Kuk Sool Won tournaments both in California and in Texas's International World



Kuk Sool Won Championship competition. He won the California Grand Champion in 2006 and 2007. He also won World Grand Champion in the Texas International World Grand Championships in 2008. Jorge has been teaching the Art of Kuk Sool Won since 2001 in San Francisco and had the pleasure of teaching at the Kuk Sool Won in Half Moon Bay under SBN Paul Carmody.

Interested in learning more about this comprehensive Korean Martial Art Form? A history of Kuk Sool Won can be found at [www.kuksoolwon.com/site/history](http://www.kuksoolwon.com/site/history). A short video explaining the ins and outs can be found at: [www.kswoftherivervalley.com/about](http://www.kswoftherivervalley.com/about).

### Who's Next?

You've seen downtown Visitation Valley make impressive strides of late and there are still great opportunities to open restaurants, coffee shops, retail stores or businesses in this convenient location - close to a diverse business district, shopping, restaurants, with easy freeway access. Check these out:

•15 Leland Avenue: 1,200 square feet of commercial storefront available, close to Bayshore Blvd., \$2400/month. Call 415/681.4917 to schedule a showing.

•91 & 93 Leland Avenue: 2,000 square feet of commercial space available, \$1800/month. Call 415/308.6900 for more information.



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# Joe Leland around the neighborhood

**\*Billboards:** In 2002, SF Voters approved Prop G that would limit and regulate billboards within the City. Seven years later, The San Francisco Planning Department has just completed a surey and inspection of every billboard in the City. In Visitacion Valley, two were found to need further attention. At 2233 Geneva "Clear channel outdoor will remove the (2) 6'x12' jr. panels to comply with the n.o.r." At 445 Visitacion (the castle building, also has the address 2509 Bayshore. See below), the owner must legalize the freestanding sign. Legalization may be simply registering it with the city. Too bad the massive billboard in the parking lot of 7-11 was not deemed illegal...

**\*Everyblock.com:** Some of you might be wondering what is the source of JOE Leland's amazing knowledge. One site that regularly provides a source of fascinating information: [www.everyblock.com](http://www.everyblock.com). Other sources will remain anonymous.

**\*A BIG Deck:** While surfing the above-cited source, this interesting permit was uncovered: October 16, 2009. "Build deck at 2509 Bayshore Blvd..2,135 sqft deck (over storage).. using redwood PT fir and urethane waterproofing..3 stericase..fence below with gates." Unless this is a typo, a 2,135 sq ft deck is HUGE.

**\*Vis Valley Redevelopment CAC:** CAC stands for Citizens Advisory Committee. As is evident, the buildings of Schlage Lock are no more. The next phase of the site's development process will begin very soon with discussions focused upon streets, sidewalk, and open space planning. The developers are on an aggressive timeline so input your input now or forever hold your peace. The CAC regularly meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m., 401 Tunnel Rd. Sign up for email/mail notification by contacting: Tom Evans, Lead Planner, San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, (415) 749-2539, [Tom.Evans@sfgov.org](mailto:Tom.Evans@sfgov.org), [www.sfgov.org/sfra](http://www.sfgov.org/sfra)

**\*For Sale - For Rent:** The real estate market is still cool in Visitacion Valley. Outward appearances indicate that few, if any of the Bayside Vista townhomes have sold (their website says 30% sold) since arriving on the market in mid 2009. New construction continues at Candlestick Cove, but few lights are on in the evening hours. Is anyone living there? The newest addition to the neighborhood: the 5 unit condo building at 2189 Bayshore Blvd. went from "for sale" to "for rent" with rents staring around \$2,500 for a three bedroom. Also for rent, the 110 "luxury" apartments of The Ashton in Candlestick Cove. Two bedroom units start at \$2,900.

**\*Zen Quote of the Month:** You may find that having is not so pleasing a thing as wanting. This is not logical, but it is often true. -Spock

## Burton Bulletins

### Burton Student Goes to Copenhagen Conference

Burton student Gier Hernandez, along with thousands of others from around the world, went to Copenhagen, Denmark to discuss climate change as they took part in a youth delegation to the 15th session to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

"As part of the next generation, it is critical that they join the thousands of youth from around the world in Copenhagen to urge world leaders to come to a just agreement that secures their future from the dangers of climate change," says Ellen Choy, Youth Engagement Coordinator for the Environmental Service Learning Initiative (ESLI).

Gier, a member of Burton's class of 2010, is originally from the Philippines.

## Open House for Students

Prospective students and families to Burton High School can meet with school administration, teachers, staff, counselors and support staff during an Open House on Thursday, Jan. 7 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

It's a great opportunity to learn about the many community resources for Burton families and students and find out about Burton's five academies, including an innovative new 9th Grade Academy designed to help students get a great start in high school.

There will be an Educational Placement Center representative to help complete and deliver an SFUSD application, along with translation in Spanish, Chinese, Filipino and Samoan.

Free childcare will be provided on site by Burton students. A raffle with prizes will take place at the end of the night.

# Church of the Visitacion

Roman Catholic (1907)

## Over a Century in Visitacion Valley

Daily Masses (Mon-Fri) 7 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.	Saturday Masses 7:30 a.m. & 4 p.m.
Sunday Masses 8 & 9:30 a.m. (11 a.m. Spanish) 12:30 & 4 p.m.	Our Lady of Visitacion School Grades K-8 239-7840

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Rev. Rafael de Avila y Romero, Administrator Pro Tem  
Rev. Thuan V. Hoang, Parochial Vicar

# San Francisco Dump Artist in Residence Program Exhibition

Recology San Francisco, formerly SF Recycling & Disposal, Inc., will have a two-day art exhibition and reception for local artists Christina Mazza and Erik Otto.

The exhibition will feature two separate bodies of work including drawings, paintings, and installations inspired by and created out of salvaged materials found during each artists' four-month residency at San Francisco's city dump.

The exhibition will take place on Jan. 22 from 5 to 9 p.m. and Jan. 23 from 1 to 5 p.m at 503 Tunnel Ave.

**Christina Mazza, Redemption**

A focal point of Christina Mazza's exhibition is a large mural in the center of the gallery depicting matted strips of white packing paper recovered from a collection of vintage Chinese lantern boxes.

Mazza reproduced her findings as an abstracted pattern on the wall. Along with her mural, Mazza has focused on creating intricate drawings of ropes, cords, and twisted metal.

Using found materials for her canvases, Mazza delighted over a graffiti-marred wooden tabletop, rusted metal cooking trays, and vintage book jackets as exciting surfaces to draw and paint on.

Although Mazza's materials vary, everything she collected during her residency offered her a compelling opportunity to work with texture, form, and line. Themes of rejection as well as redemption appear throughout her work as she searched for beauty in discarded material. In regards to her selection process during the residency, Mazza remarked, "every rejected item I've drawn is meant to be closely examined. In doing so, the discarded object is acknowledged by the viewer and therefore re-deemed."

Her impeccable drawings are completed with ballpoint pen, pencil, or gouache, and present singular objects taken out of context from an often tangled conglomerate of disposed material. In regards to her technique, Mazza stated, "I work with the most humble and basic of implements. Using these common tools, I create sensitive, exquisitely-detailed and somewhat abstracted works that not only cause us to look at the environment around us differently, but also help us to

closely examine ourselves and our own impact on that environment." Her precision and realistic drawing style demands that we take a closer look at everyday objects. By highlighting a rope, or a pile of shredded paper, Mazza focuses on fragility and the individual beauty of objects that often go unnoticed.

To accompany her drawings, she also produced an installation and a short collaborative video to document her memorable experience at the Dump.

**Erik Otto, The Last Shall Be First**

A Bay Area native, Erik Otto studied illustration and animation at San Jose State University. He is committed to drawing, painting, and constructing large installations using a variety of materials and surfaces. The amount of material available to Otto during his four-month residency at the Dump was both stimulating and inspiring.

In his exhibition, The Last Shall Be First, Otto calls attention to objects and materials that have been forgotten and disregarded. He incorporated house paint, spray paint, stenciling, collage and screen-printing in his artwork and through his creative process, regenerated these materials, turning waste into art.

Through his homage to trash, Otto brings new spirit to old things and reminds us that thrown away and forgotten items can be salvaged and remembered.

Erik Otto considers himself a process artist and often, during the act of scavenging for materials, he develops his ideas. "I meditate and develop the concepts for the work I am about to create largely based on what I find. I often leave the initial stages of my work open and uncertain while intuitively working out a resolution that will decide its final outcome based on the suggestive qualities of the medium and materials at hand."

His artwork and installations incorporate abstract and illustrative symbols and scenes with undercurrents of destruction. Themes of repetition, beauty, and devastation appeared in Otto's work prior to his residency and continue to be central threads during his time at the Dump. Otto has only grown more compelled to find ways of visually depicting the never-ending

cycle of waste.

The Artist in Residence Program at Recology San Francisco is a one-of-a-kind program started in 1990 to encourage people to conserve natural resources and instill in children and adults an increased appreciation for the environment as well as art. Over 80 professional Bay Area artists have completed residencies. Applications are accepted annually (in August) from professional Bay Area artists.

## Book Review

**Problem Behaviors**

Bryan Post's latest book, *The Great Behavior Breakdown* (Post Publications, \$19.95), offers parents proven formulas for handling problem behaviors in children — particularly adopted children who may have experienced traumas in their early lives.

The book is divided into chapters that deal with some of the most common behavioral issues, like lying and bedtime problems, as well as more severe behaviors like self-mutilation and lack of conscience.

"I have worked with countless families and have seen these formulas work wonders," says Post, Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Founder and CEO of the Post Institute for Family-Centered Therapy based in Virginia Beach, Virginia. "Some parents have tried just about everything else with no success, and they're amazed that these strategies work nearly every time."

Post's strategies are based on the principles of attachment parenting and the premise that all negative behavior is a result of stress and fear, which is called the "stress model." When parents are able to relieve the stress and fear, the child's behavior gradually changes. In some cases, the behavior may end immediately.

The first chapter explains the stress model and other aspects of attachment parenting. Chapters 2 through 12 focus on the specific behaviors, offering stories that show parents exactly how to apply each formula to the situations they face with their children — whether biological or adopted.

## Composting Class at Garden for the Environment

Composting Winter can be a great time to start a new compost pile or to jump start one that just isn't breaking down.

Join Garden For the Environment (7th Avenue at Lawton Street) for a fun, free hands-on workshop from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday, Jan. 9 teaching basic methods of both backyard and worm composting.

Compost is a rich soil amendment that will greatly benefit your garden plants, houseplants, and the environment, by diverting compostable material from the landfill. Learn how to turn those food scraps or fallen leaves into "gardeners black gold." Rot on!

## Cooking Corner

**Spaghetti Puttanesca With Sausage**

8 ounces brown rice gluten-free spaghetti; 2 teaspoons olive oil; 1 cup chopped onion; 4 cloves garlic, thinly sliced; 1 (28 oz.) can fire-roasted crushed tomatoes, undrained; ½ cup coarsely chopped pitted Kalamata olives; 1 tablespoon chopped capers; 2 teaspoons anchovy paste or 2 minced anchovy fillets; ½ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes; 1 (7 oz.) package Jones All Natural Golden Brown Sausage Links/Patties, sliced or cubed; 1 cup (4 oz.) diced fresh mozzarella cheese or quartered ciliegine mozzarella balls; ¼ cup julienned fresh basil leaves.

Cook spaghetti according to package directions. Meanwhile, heat oil in a large saucepan over medium heat.

Add onion and garlic; cook, stirring occasionally, 6 to 8 minutes or until onion is tender.

Add tomatoes, olives, capers, anchovy paste and pepper flakes; bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat; simmer 5 minutes.

Stir in sausage; simmer 5 minutes. Drain spaghetti; transfer to 4 shallow bowls.

Stir fresh mozzarella cheese into sausage mixture; serve over spaghetti and top with basil. Makes 4 servings

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## Grapevine on the Web

Read current and past stories from the Visitacion Valley Grapevine at [www.visvalleygrapevine.com](http://www.visvalleygrapevine.com)



## EarthTalk

### Pollutants While Biking?

Dear EarthTalk: I ride my bike to work along busy urban streets. Should I be worried about inhaling pollutants from vehicle emissions and other sources? -J. Kaufman, S.F.

Aside from the obvious physical safety considerations (especially when talking on a cell phone!), biking on highly trafficked roads exposes riders to considerable amounts of fine particles, nitrogen dioxide and volatile organic compounds spewing out of tailpipes.

The short answer is, yes, probably. Cars, trucks and buses emit considerable amounts of airborne pollution as they make their ways along city streets and highways. The fine particles, nitrogen dioxide and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) spewing out of tailpipes have been linked to a wide range of human health problems, from headaches to respiratory illness to cancer. Though Australian researchers found that exposure to these pollutants is actually higher while riding inside a vehicle than while riding a bike, turning your handlebars in the direction of back roads might still be a good idea, for safety's sake as well.

Western Washington University Geophysicist Bernie Housen, concerned about the air quality on his own bicycle commute along busy Bellingham roads, recently launched a study of the magnetism in local trees to gauge air quality along his route and elsewhere in his region. The magnetism in a tree's leaves is created by tiny particles of iron oxides and other pollutants that drift through the air, emanating primarily from eroding vehicle brake pads and diesel exhaust. The particles are small enough to pass through our nasal passages and get lodged in our lungs. Housen and his colleagues found 10 times as much magnetism on urban roadside tree leaves as on their rural counterparts that contend with little traffic.

Housen has also altered his own bike route to campus to avoid the more polluted thoroughfares. "One underlying concern is that if you are riding your bike, you are being more physically active; you are breathing deeper and breathing more air in, and so if you are doing that in an area where there is a concentrated elevation of this material it might not be such a good thing," he added.

Ironically, many cities that offer dedicated bike lanes often lay them out right next to busy bus lanes, unintentionally ensuring that bicyclists breathe in as much diesel exhaust as possible. "I ride along one of these high-traffic bus routes," Housen says, "and ... there was between two and five or six times more magnetic fine particulate matter along the bus

route than [on less-busy streets]." Housen would like to expand his research so it could be used by urban planners to better design hike and pedestrian routes so as not to intermingle so much diesel transit and pedestrian/bicycle traffic.

Of course, there are other ways to track urban pollution levels. In the UK, for instance, researchers from the government-funded Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council have created the Urban Pollution Monitoring Project, which builds and distributes GPS-enabled mobile pollution sensing systems that can be carried by hand or placed on a bike rack. The group is using data gleaned from the sensors to map where and when pollution levels are at their highest around London and other UK cities, and hopes to use its research to influence the way roads and urban areas are planned in the future as well.

Those who want or need to keep on riding through polluted areas should consider wearing an anti-pollution respiratory mask, many of which can filter out upwards of 95 percent of particulate pollution before it enters the human lung. Some leading manufacturers include Totobobo, G-Flow and Respro. Dear EarthTalk: What is the status of the hyena in the wild? Though unloved by many, the hyena has always struck me as one of God's survivors. -Jim Reddoch, Portland, TX

Among the most intelligent animals on Earth, three species of hyenas still roam in wilder parts of Africa and Asia. Of them, the striped hyena and the brown hyena are most

at risk. Both are considered "Near Threatened" by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which maintains a "Red List" of at-risk and extinct species around the world. The spotted hyena is doing well enough to be considered of "Least Concern" by IUCN, but its population is also declining, primarily due to habitat loss.

In general, hyenas are large, strong, flesh-eating animals that hunt a wide range of prey but mostly feed on carrion (the kills of other predators). They most closely resemble dogs but are in fact more closely related to cats. When full-grown, hyenas range from about 3 1/2 to 5 1/2 feet long and weigh between 75 and 175 pounds. Considered as smart as some primates, hyenas work in teams to hunt zebras and wildebeests. They communicate through a series of yells and growls, and their cries resemble human laughter.

The striped hyena roams a very large, patchy range stretching from northern Africa through the Middle East to India. Biologists estimate that only 5,000 to 14,000 individuals exist today in the wild. According to the IUCN, major reasons for the animals' decline include persecution (especially poisoning) by humans, decreasing sources of carrion due to declines in the populations of other large carnivores (wolves, cheetahs, leopards, lions and tigers) and their prey, and changes in livestock practices. "Humans are consistently indicated as the major source of mortality ... largely because the [hyena] is loathed as a grave robber, and

because of incidents of damage to agriculture ... and livestock," reports the IUCN. Also taking a toll is illegal hunting for striped hyena skins and body parts for use in traditional medicine.

Meanwhile, only 5,000 to 8,000 Brown hyenas today roam parts of sub-Saharan Africa. The brown hyena is relatively safe in protected areas, but clashes with humans elsewhere have taken their toll. The IUCN reports that negative attitudes toward brown hyenas prevail across South Africa and elsewhere, with many ranchers and farmers shooting, poisoning, trapping and hunting them with dogs. The UK-based Predator Conservation Trust has established the Brown Hyena Research Project to help form strategies to promote the long-term survival of the species and its southern Africa habitat.

As many as 47,000 spotted hyenas live in sub-Saharan Africa. They suffer similar forms of persecution as other hyenas but have fared better due to their ability to adapt to life in proximity to humans.

The IUCN's Hyena Specialist Group focuses on developing hyena conservation strategies worldwide through integrated research and public education to change attitudes toward these much maligned animals. Conservationists underscore the importance of preserving hyenas because, if for no other reason, we can learn much from them. For one, hyenas possess unique immune systems that allow them to withstand diseases that kill other animals. "Only if hyenas are

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available to study will we be able to unravel the mysteries of their immune responses," reports IUCN.

### Saturdays are Special At Randall Museum

The Randall Museum offers drop-in, hands-on art and science workshops every Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. at 199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt, above the Castro). Workshops are \$3 per child; \$5 for a parent and child combo. All kids under 8 must be with a paying adult. Call 554-9600 for further information.

Jan. 2: Learn about the fascinating habits and diet of owls through owl pellet dissection.

Jan. 9: Learn to make, then decorate several paper airplanes in celebration of upcoming Amelia Earhart Day.

Jan. 16: Dip into the art of printmaking with bold and instantly gratifying monoprints.

Jan. 23: Sculpt your own clay bird with feather wings and beaded eyes.

Jan. 30: Let the underwater world of jellies, otters and kelp inspire you as you impress an Embossed Aluminum Foil Seascape.

Other regular Saturday activities include:

\*Morning Family Ceramics from 10 to 11:30 a.m. (\$5 per person workshop fee)

\*Meet the Animals from 11:15 a.m. to 12 noon.

\*Animal Feeding at 12 noon.

\*Golden Gate Model Railroad Club Exhibit from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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### Grapevine Classified

**VVCC BOARD MEETINGS:** Visitacion Valley Community Center (VVCC) regular monthly Board meetings, held the 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m., except December and May, are open to the public. Board members are selected by the members of the community center with dues currently paid, at the Annual Membership meeting held the 3rd Saturday in May each year. Any vacancies that occur on the Board due to uncompleted 3-year terms of membership are filled by appointment of the remaining Board members. At least 75% of our Board members must reside in Visitacion Valley. Persons interested in Board membership are encouraged to send a letter of interest to Board of Directors Development Committee, Visitacion Valley Community Center, 50 Raymond Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134. Please let the Board know what you could contribute that will enhance and improve our organization for better service to our community. You will be contacted and your letter will be submitted to the Board for consideration at either the next Annual election or of any available open positions that might occur within the coming year.

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# Visitacion Valley Police Report

## Police Cases

\*On Nov. 20 at 10:22 p.m. on the 1800 block of Geneva Avenue, officers were on patrol when they saw that a Daly City Police unit had a car pulled over in S.F. The officers responded to assist. The DCPD officer had pulled the driver over for a violation. An officer asked the driver for his name and found that it was different from the one he gave the DCPD officer. The officers discovered that the suspect had a warrant for \$5,000. The suspect was arrested and booked on the warrant.

\*On Nov. 21 at 4:10 a.m. on the 200 block of Blythdale Avenue, officers were sent to investigate a verbal fight. The victim told the officers that the known suspect had come into her house and would not leave. The officers found the suspect and conducted an investigation. The suspect was intoxicated and very agitated. The officers asked the suspect to settle down only to have the suspect turn and tell the officer that he was not going to cooperate. After several tries, the officers had to handcuff the suspect. The officers then searched the suspect and found that he had drugs in his pocket. The suspect was placed under arrest for the drugs and delaying the arrest. At 9:25 p.m. on the 600 block of Velasco Avenue, officers were sent to investigate a call of shots fired. The officers located a witness that told them that they heard the shots but did not see anything. The officers located empty bullet casings and retrieved them as evidence.

\*On Nov. 22 at 6 a.m. on the 1800 block of Geneva Avenue, officers were sent to investigate an assault case. The victim told the officers that the known suspect attempted to push her down the stairs then pulled that victim by the hair. The suspect then sat and waited for the police. The suspect told a different account of the incident. The suspect was arrested and booked. At 11:09 p.m. on the 200 block of Sunnysdale Avenue, officers were sent to investigate a call of shots being fired. The witness told the officer that they were driving when they observed a person in a car pull a gun out the window point up and fired several shots. The officers searched the area for the car with negative results but were able to locate the empty casings.

\*On Nov. 23 at 12 noon on the 1800 block of Sunnysdale Avenue, a Police Services aide prepared a report regarding an ID theft. The victim told the PSA that she discovered that someone in Southern California has been using her personal information. The victim stated that she did not know who the suspect could be or how they obtained her information.

\*On Nov. 24 at 10:30 a.m. on the 1000 block of Grand Street, officers were sent to investigate a burglary. The victim told the officers that she left home only to discover that a suspect had broken in the back door. The victim also said that when she got home she observed a bag of her property being thrown over her fence, then the suspect followed. The suspect knew that the victim was home so he ran. The officers searched the area and the home with negative results. CSI was notified. At 3:54 p.m. on the 1700 block of Sunnysdale Avenue, officers were on foot patrol when they observed a subject they had dealings with in the past and requested information. The officers learned that the subject has a Stay Away court order for that area. The officers attempted to stop the suspect. The suspect knew that he has the court order so he began to run. The suspect continued to run to no avail. The officers broadcast the foot chase to other units who were responding to assist. The avenue of escape was closed to the point the suspect was taken into custody. The suspect was not happy, so on his way to the station to be booked he decided to threaten the officers that arrested him. Now the suspect would be charged with another felony. At 5:17 p.m. at Santos Street and Blythdale Avenue, officers were sent to investigate an assault case. The victim told the officers that she was on the street when the known suspect attacked her because of an acquaintance of hers. The suspect then fled. At 5:55 p.m. at Felton and Holyoke streets, an officer responded to a call regarding a robbery. The officer met with and spoke to the victim who stated that he had been walking on Felton and Holyoke when he was approached by two unknown subjects who told the victim, "Money, money, give me money. I have a gun." The victim saw a gun pointed at him and gave the suspect money and his cell phone. The suspects fled the area after the robbery. The victim was not injured during the incident. At 9 p.m. on the 100 block of Blythdale Avenue, a Police Services aide prepared a report regarding a vandalism case. The victim told the PSA that he parked his car in a parking lot only to discover that someone had dented one of his

doors. No suspects were observed. At 10:05 p.m. on the 500 block of Carter Street, officers were sent to investigate a fight. The victim told the officers that she was involved in an argument with the suspect. The suspect became angry and grabbed the victim by the neck and strangled her. The suspect let go but continued the verbal assault. The suspect was taken into custody and booked.

\*On Nov. 25 at 1:50 a.m. on the 1900 block of Geneva Avenue, officers were dispatched to the report of an assault. The officers arrived while the victim was being treated by medics. A witness at the scene said that he heard the victim yelling, so he looked out of his house window. The witness then saw the victim being assaulted by the suspect who then fled the scene. At 8:18 p.m. on the 400 block of Campbell Avenue, officers responded to the report of a burglary. The victim said that he left his home earlier in the day. When he returned, he found that his door was damaged and ajar. He noticed that several items were missing from his home, including his laptop.

\*On Nov. 26 at 2:20 a.m. on the 200 block of Raymond Avenue, officers were working in plain clothes when they responded to a report of a robbery. They met with the victim who said that he was walking down the street when he was approached by a car with several suspects in it. The victim felt suspicious so he tried to enter his family member's nearby residence to get away from the situation. The suspects got to the victim before he could go inside and a fight erupted when the suspects produced a gun and attempted to rob him. A description of the suspects was broadcast to other units in the city. A Southern Station unit located the suspect car and detained the occupants who were later identified as the suspects. Four people in all were arrested and charged with robbery. At 2:20 p.m. at Mansell Street and Visitacion Avenue, a police sergeant responded to a report of a theft. The victim said that she was using her laptop computer on the 29 Line Muni bus. Two males then approached the door of the bus as it stopped, and stayed there while another male took the laptop from the victim. All of the suspects then exited the bus and fled the scene.

\*On Nov. 27 at 7:27 a.m. on the 100 block of Tioga Avenue, officers responded to a report of a burglary. The victim told the officers that on the day before he and his family woke up to find that his residence had been burglarized. The missing items included a cell phone, wallet and cash.

\*On Nov. 29 at 7:03 a.m. on the unit block of Blythdale Avenue, officers were dispatched to a report of vandalism. The victim said that he was asleep when he awoke to the sound of his ex-wife yelling outside his house. The suspect demanded entry into the home and threatened to break a window if she was not let in. Before the victim could act, he heard the crashing sound of a window being broken and looked to see his ex-wife drop a rock and walk away. At 1:28 p.m. on the 600 block of Sawyer Street, officers were on patrol when they were approached by a man who said he had heard gun shots earlier in the morning. The man also said that there was a bullet hole on the side of his vehicle. The officers were able to locate bullet fragments and document the incident. No other witnesses were available. At 1:40 p.m. at Crocker Amazon Playground, an officer was dispatched to the report of a man exposing himself to a juvenile. A young

girl was walking through the park when she passed by the suspect who had exposed himself to her. The suspect fled the scene when the girl's mother chased after him after being informed of the incident.

\*On Nov. 30 at 9:22 a.m. on the 200 block of Leland Avenue, an officer responded to a report of a burglary. The victim said that he locked his tools up at a construction site. When he returned, he found that the container in which they were stored had been broken into. Several tools were missing from inside the container. At 1:04 p.m. on the 3500 block of San Bruno Avenue, officers were dispatched to a report of a burglary. The victim said that he left his business secure and locked on Nov. 28. When he returned, he found that someone had broken into the shop and stole a TV and various work-related tools. At 2:06 p.m. on the unit block of Hentage Avenue, officers responded to the report of a burglary in progress. Upon their arrival, they found three suspects who were climbing over the fence of the victim's residence. The suspects saw the police and attempted to run. One suspect was caught immediately and the other two were caught after a foot chase. Officers at the scene located numerous pieces of stolen property and were able to locate the owner of the residence. In all over \$7,200 worth of property was recovered. The suspects were all booked for numerous charges including burglary, possession of stolen property, conspiracy, and resisting arrest. At 10:05 p.m. on the 1700 block of Sunnysdale Avenue, an officer was dispatched to a report of a theft. The victim said that a few minutes earlier she had seen the hood to her car open. She then saw a man walk away from her car with the car's battery. She then discovered that her driver's side window was broken.

\*On Dec. 1 at 1:38 p.m. on the unit block of Blythdale Avenue, officers were dispatched to the report of a burglary. The victim said he returned home to find that the rear window to her residence had been broken and the back door of her residence was open. The victim was unable to say immediately what had been taken. At 2:46 p.m. on the unit block of Blythdale Avenue, officers were responded to the report of a burglary. The victim said that she returned home to find that her front door was unlocked. She entered the house and discovered that the rear window of her house had been smashed. Missing was several pieces of jewelry and a brown leather bag. At 4:28 p.m. on the 200 block of Leland Avenue, officers were dispatched to a report of a found gun. The reportee said that children who were inside Visitacion Valley Playground found the gun inside the sandbox. The gun was loaded with the hammer cocked back.

\*On Dec. 2 at 11:32 p.m. on the 1800 block of Sunnysdale Avenue, officers were dispatched to a report of a battery. The victim said that she was being bothered by her aunt's boyfriend and was trying to get away from him when he hit her in the face several times.

\*On Dec. 4 at 11:44 a.m. at Bayshore Boulevard and Highway 101, officers were patrolling the area of Alameda/Bayshore, when near the freeway entrance, they saw a male driving a vehicle. One officer said he knew that individual had a suspended driver's license so they effected a traffic stop on the vehicle. The officer said that as he approached the vehicle, the vehicle drove away at a high rate of speed. Due to the fact that the vehicle was operating in a reckless manner, they did not pursue the vehicle. They prepared an incident report. At 3:15 p.m. on the 400 block of Raymond Avenue, an of-

ficer was performing uniformed patrol when he went to the school on the 400 block of Raymond Avenue. The officer said that he observed two students sitting in chairs in the Counseling Office being spoken to by an adult who was a Probation Officer for one of the students. The officer said that he left the office and returned a short time later and the Probation Officer pointed out a bag of marijuana that was on the floor near the chairs where the two students had been sitting. The students denied owning the bag and no one had seen anyone put it there. The officer booked the suspected marijuana.

\*On Dec. 5 at 8:40 a.m. on the unit block of Blythdale Avenue, a police sergeant was on patrol when he was flagged down by the victims of an auto boosting. The victims said that their car was undamaged, but an iPod and several other items were missing from the car.

\*On Dec. 6 at 2:12 p.m. on the 1500 block of Sunnysdale Avenue, a police sergeant was inside the Sunnysdale Police Substation when he heard a possible gunshot outside. He stepped outside to investigate when he heard additional gunfire nearby. The police sergeant advised residents to get inside their homes and there was soon gunfire aimed in his direction, with shots flying by him and landing just in front of him. The police sergeant was hit in the face and leg by bullet fragments before taking cover inside the station. Numerous units responded to and canvassed the area, locating a rifle in a backyard. A second gunshot victim was later located at SFGH. A short while later, an anonymous witness then heard three males bragging to each other about having shot at the police. The three were taken into custody. At 6 p.m. on the 2700 block of San Bruno Avenue, a victim's electric wheelchair was damaged by an unknown suspect who cut the electrical wires to the chair. The victim told police that he had come home around 4 p.m. and found the glass part to the peep hole missing and tooth picks shoved in the deadbolt lock. A charger for the wheelchair was the only item taken by the suspect.

\*On Dec. 7 at 10:57 a.m. on the 200 block of Blythdale Avenue, officers responded to a reported fight. They met with the victim who said that her cousin had come over and was angry about being disrespected at a club. The suspect kicked in the victim's bedroom door and choked her, then broke numerous things around the house.

\*On Dec. 8 at 11:10 a.m. on the 2500 block of Bayshore Boulevard, officers were patrolling the Ingleside District when they were dispatched to the 2500 Block of Bayshore Boulevard regarding a male who had received a threatening phone call. The reporting party told them that he had received poor service from a tow company driver. He said that he called the tow company to complain to the manager. The victim said that a few minutes later he received a phone call from an unknown male making a threat toward him. The victim believed that the call was from the tow truck driver. The victim stated that is he not in fear of his life but he wanted a police report to document the incident. At 2:15 p.m. at Alpha Street and Arleta Avenue, a police sergeant was assigned to a Violence Reduction Detail in the Sunnysdale area in uniform on a marked police motorcycle. The police sergeant was stopped at the corner of Arleta Avenue and Alpha Street when he saw a vehicle pass by with the passenger not wearing a seatbelt. The police sergeant effected a traffic stop for a seatbelt violation. While speaking with the driver of the vehicle, the police ser-

geant smelled a strong odor of marijuana. The driver admitted to carrying some marijuana. Upon running a check on the driver's name, it was discovered that he was on parole and had a suspended driver's license. The driver was cited for driving with a suspended license, no proof of insurance, seatbelt violation since his passenger was under 18 and possession of marijuana. The vehicle was towed. At 6:48 p.m. on the 200 block of Schwerin Street, officers were on patrol when they were dispatched to the 200 block of Schwerin on the report of a theft. Upon their arrival, they were told by the victim she last saw her son's bicycle in their fenced-in backyard. When she returned approximately three hours later, the bicycle was no longer there. The gate to the backyard can only be opened from inside. There is no suspect information. At 6:56 p.m. on the 1500 block of Sunnysdale Avenue, an officer was standing outside his police car when a man walked by and threatened to pull out a gun and rob him. The suspect and his friends then fled the area. The officer, along with other officers, were able to locate the suspect and arrest him for threats against a police officer.

\*On Dec. 9 at 6:09 a.m. officers responded to a hospital on the report of a walk in shooting victim. The officers were told that the shooting had occurred on the 200 block of Hahn Street. Several Ingleside officers searched the area for any evidence of a crime scene. No crime scene was established. The shooting victim was unable to be interviewed due to the fact that he was in surgery. The attending physician told the officers that the victim was in stable condition. The suspect's description is quite minimal. Race unknown for both, one is 6'0, 190 lbs. last seen wearing a gray sweater. Suspect number 2 is an unknown race male, 6'0, and 240 lbs. wearing a black hooded sweatshirt. At 12:45 p.m. on the 100 block of Hahn Street, an officer was working at the front counter at Ingleside Station when he was approached by an individual reporting a fraud being committed on his mother. That individual said his mother is being cheated out of money. A person who is known to his mom continuously asks the elderly woman for money because the suspect has made her think that she has won \$150,000. The reporting party said that his mother has dementia and does not think very clearly. The reporting party's mother has been assigned a case worker by Adult Protective Services.

\*On Dec. 10 at 5:52 p.m. on the 800 block of Sunnysdale Avenue, officers were patrolling the Sunnysdale area when they were dispatched to a call of a theft. The victim and her caretaker had just arrived home. The suspect approached them as they were walking into the house. The suspect told the victim she could refer a good gardener. The victim said the suspect followed them into the house continuing to talk. The victim put her purse down and the suspect left soon after. The victim realized her purse had been stolen along with the \$800 inside.

\*On Dec. 11 at 1:10 p.m. on the 100 block of Brookdale Avenue, an officer was sent to investigate a report of a verbal fight. The victim told the officer that the argument was over rotten food in her room. The victim told the officer that the known suspect was upset at her because of the smell and made an overt move towards her. The suspect told the officer that he did indeed make that move towards the victim because he could no longer put up with the smell. The victim wanted to sign a citizen's arrest. The suspect was arrested and cited.

# VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER SENIOR PROGRAM

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## Police Cases

At 2 p.m. on the 400 block of Raymond Avenue, an officer was sent to investigate a reported assault case. The victim told the officer that the suspect threw an object at her and that she wanted to press charges. The suspect was arrested and then cited to appear in court.

\*On Dec. 13 at 9:12 a.m. at San Bruno Avenue and Silliman Street an officer was driving in the area when he saw a car make an illegal left turn in front of him. The officer pulled the vehicle over and spoke with the driver. Through a preliminary investigation, the officer discovered that the driver had a suspended license and the she also had an outstanding warrant for her arrest. At 9 p.m. on the 1800 block of Sunnysdale Avenue, officers were sent to investigate a vandalism case. The victim told the officers that an unknown suspect had damaged her locks. The officers observed that someone had put crazy glue in the keyholes rendering them useless.

\*On Dec. 14 at 4 a.m. at Bayshore Boulevard and Raymond Avenue, officers were sent to investigate a vandalism report. The victim told the officers that the suspect came into the store and broke the lotto machine for no reason. The suspect then exited and fled the area. At 2:05 p.m. at Cora Street and Visitacion Avenue, an officer was patrolling when he observed a vehicle with tint on the windows in violation of the tint law. The officer stopped the vehicle and discovered that the driver had no license on him. The officer also discovered that the driver had a suspended license. The officer found that the driver of the car had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. The passenger of the car was holding an open beer and also had a warrant for her arrest. Both suspects were placed under arrest and an arrest search revealed the passenger in possession of drugs. The vehicle was towed and the suspects were arrested and booked. At 9:56 p.m. at Sunnysdale Avenue and Santos Street an officer was flagged down in the area as a call from dispatch of shots fired. Numerous Ingleside units were in the area searching when officers located the vehicle involved. After a small pursuit, the vehicle stopped and the driver exited with a gun in his hand. Officers converged and were able to take the gunman into custody without any more shots being fired.

\*On Dec. 15 at 12:20 a.m. at Santos Street and Blythdale Avenue, officers were sent to investigate a burglary case. The victim told the officers that he came to find a suspect inside that struck him on the head with a baseball bat. The suspect removed a TV and a microwave then fled. The area was searched with no results. At 10:50 a.m. at Santos Street and Brookdale Avenue, officers were sent to investigate a theft case. The victim told the officers that she was waiting for the bus when the suspect asked her to use her cell phone. The victim let the suspect use the phone. The victim told the officers that as the bus was getting close she took out cash from her purse (\$60); the suspect was still on the phone. The suspect grabbed the cash out of the victim's hand and fled with the phone still in hand. At 7 p.m. on the 1800 block of Sunnysdale Avenue, officers were sent to investigate an assault case. The victim told the officers that a known suspect sprayed her in the face with pepper spray as her small child was close to her. The case is under investigation. At 11 p.m. on the 200 block of Blythdale Avenue, officers were sent to investigate a shots fired call. The officers located a victim that told them he was grabbed by a suspect and threatened with an HIV tainted needle. The suspect then fired three shots into the air and fled. The victim was not injured.

\*On Dec. 16 at 11 a.m. on the unit block of Brookdale Avenue, officers were sent to investigate a burglary case. The victim told the officer that she left her apartment but could not remember if she locked the front door or not. The victim did tell the officers that when she came back she discovered her laptop computer missing. At 1:29 p.m. at Visitacion Avenue and Mansell Street, an officer was on patrol when he observed a vehicle parked in a high crime area with the motor running. The officer decided to investigate further. What drew more attention to the officer was that the registration on the plate showed current, but DMV records indicated it to be expired. The officer discovered that the subject in the car was on probation and had a search condition because of this. The officer conducted a search of the car and discovered a plethora of contraband. Drugs and a gun were the main items discovered. The subject was arrested and booked. At 2 p.m. on the 200 block of Santos Street, a Police Services aide prepared a report regarding a fraud case. The victim told the PSA that he was robbed while staying with a friend. The victim told the officers that while he was interacting with his friend, he heard voices in the closet that turned out to be two suspects that were taking his wal-

let. The victim told the PSA that his total loss was over \$4000. This case is under investigation. At 2:30 p.m. on the 1800 block of Sunnysdale Avenue, officers were sent to investigate an assault case. The victim told the officers that the suspect pushed him down the stairs causing him to be injured. There was no reason for this to happen.

\*On Dec. 17 at 12:30 a.m. at Campbell Ave. and Brussels St., a Police Services aide prepared a report regarding a theft case. The victim told the PSA that he parked and locked his car only to discover that an unknown suspect had broken a window on the car and stole the visible property. Total loss was over \$13,300 in medical equipment. No suspects were observed.

\*On Dec. 18 at 8 a.m. on the unit block of Schwerin Street, officers were sent to investigate a theft. The victim told the officers that she left her iPod Nano plugged in at work and when she returned it was missing. There is no suspect information. \*On Dec. 19 at 9:34 p.m. at Geneva Avenue and Santos Street, officers were sent to investigate a robbery case. The victims told the officers that they were on their way to the store and were beat and robbed by two suspects. The officers took the information for the report, searched the area but did not locate the suspects. A short time later the officers were sent back to speak to the victims. The victims spotted the suspects and call 911. The officers responded to the location and located the possible suspects. The officers noticed that one of the suspects was wearing an IPOD that matched the one that was stolen from one of the victims. The officers brought the victims to identify the suspects. Both suspects were positively identified and arrested and booked on robbery and conspiracy to commit a robbery.

\*On Dec. 20 at 11 p.m. on the 1500 block of Sunnysdale Avenue, officers were sent to investigate an assault case. The victim told the officers that a known suspect got into a physical fight. The suspect was angry because the victim's boyfriend would not give her a ride. The suspect slapped the victim and then grabbed a belt and began hitting the victim. The victim's boyfriend called the police. The suspect was arrested and taken to Ingleside Station. The victim had a baggie containing methamphetamine in her pocket. The victim was booked for all of the aforementioned violations.

\*On Dec. 21 at 9:38 a.m. on the unit block of Leland Avenue, officers were dispatched to the report of vandalism. The reportee said that a suspect had damaged an ATM machine overnight in an effort to gain entry to it. At 12:15 p.m. at Brookdale and Geneva avenues, officers were sent to investigate a robbery incident. The victim told the officers that she was delivering some food but could not locate the correct address. The victim said that she got out of the car and was attempting to find the address on foot. The victim told the officers that she saw a group of men that told her they had ordered the food but did not have the money and told her to go to another address. The victim gave them the food and followed them only to have one of the suspects in the group walk up to her, punch her on the back of her head and take her purse containing \$400. The suspects fled the area with the food. The victim told the officers that she would be able to identify the suspects if she saw them again. At 3:30 p.m. at Leland Avenue and Bayshore Boulevard, officers were sent to investigate a vandalism case. The victim told the officers that when she left the previous day there was no damage to the money machine in front. When she returned she discovered that someone had shattered the glass on it. The surveillance video will be reviewed in this case. At 3:30 p.m. on the 1400 block of Sunnysdale Avenue, officers were sent to investigate a reported vandalism. The victim told the officers that he was at home when he heard a smashing window sound outside. The victim went to look out the window and observed a Hispanic male between 24 and 25 reaching through his car window. The suspect fled the area. There was no loss.

\*On Dec. 22 at 10:59 a.m. on the 3700 block of San Bruno Avenue, officers were sent to investigate an attempted burglary. The victim told the officers that she noticed pry marks on her back door and she never uses that door. The officers observed pry marks but the deadbolt lock and door were still intact. There is no suspect information. At 1:25 p.m. on the 1600 block of Sunnysdale Avenue, officers were on patrol in the Housing area of the Ingleside when they observed a suspect that had an outstanding warrant. The officers attempted to arrest the suspect only to have the suspect take off running. One officer exited the vehicle and gave chase without missing a beat. The younger suspect attempted to elude the officer but soon found out that was not going to work. The officer gave chase while communicating the other officers via his radio and was able to corral the suspect and take him into custody. At 5:31 p.m. on the

1400 block of Sunnysdale Avenue, officers were sent to investigate a vandalism report. The victim told the officers that he was at home when he heard a window break outside. The victim looked out the window and saw a suspect running. There was no property loss. The victim was able to get a vehicle description and plate number. At 11:40 p.m. at Bayshore Boulevard and Arleta Avenue, officers were sent to investigate a theft case. The victim told the officers that he was at the bus stop when a suspect walked up to him and asked for a dollar. The victim was holding two one dollar bills in his hand. The suspect snatched the two dollars out of the victim's hand and fled. \*On Dec. 23 at 3:56 p.m. at Tunnel and Blanken avenues, a motorcycle officer was on patrol when he saw an older car with "paper plates." He conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle and discovered that the vehicle registration had been expired for over a year. The officer informed the driver that her car would be towed. A struggle ensued when the driver refused to surrender her keys or exit the vehicle and then tried to start the car. She eventually was able to start it and flee the scene, with the officer following. The suspect drove to her house where she continued to punch, kick and resist the officer and other officers who responded to help. She was taken into custody for numerous traffic violations, assault and child endangerment. At 9 p.m. on the 100 block of Blythdale Avenue, an officer was on patrol in the Sunnysdale area when he was dispatched to the scene regarding a damaged window. Another officer and a police sergeant were also on scene. The victim told the officers that she left home at 12 noon and there was no damage to her windows at that time. She said when she returned to her residence a 5 p.m. she discovered BB holes in her bedroom and bathroom windows. The victim said that she does not know who could have vandalized her windows. There is no suspect description or information. At 10:15 p.m. on the 1400 block of Sunnysdale Avenue, officers were on patrol when they were flagged down by a victim who said that he was riding his off-road motorcycle when he was pushed off of it by two men. One suspect rode off with the motorcycle while the other fled the scene on foot. The suspects were described as African American men wearing black hooded sweatshirts and dark jeans. The motorcycle is a yellow Yamaha PW50.

## Police Summaries

\*Nov. 24 11 p.m., Brookdale and Campbell Aves., stolen/recovered auto

\*Nov. 25 8:09 p.m., 1200 block of Wayland St., stolen auto

\*Nov. 26 5:05 a.m., Geneva Ave. and Carter St., unlicensed driver

\*Nov. 26 2:45 p.m., Campbell and San Bruno Aves., suspended license, tow

\*Nov. 28 8:05 a.m., Unit block of Blythdale Ave., recovered auto

\*Nov. 28 11:30 p.m., Bayshore Blvd. and Arleta Ave., suspended license, tow

\*Nov. 30 12:22 a.m., 200 block of Rutland St., recovered vehicle

\*Dec. 1 1:15 a.m., 400 block of Sunnysdale Ave., recovered auto

\*Dec. 1 6:04 p.m., San Bruno/Harkness Ave., traffic collision

\*Dec. 1 8:35 p.m., 100 block Ward St., recovered auto

\*Dec. 3 John F. Shelley Dr. and Mansell St., theft from vehicle

\*Dec. 5 9:30 a.m., 1700 block of Sunnysdale Ave., recovered auto

\*Dec. 5 11:49 a.m., 3600 block of San Bruno Ave., stolen auto

\*Dec. 6 1:40 a.m., Visitacion Ave. and Hahn St., traffic collision

\*Dec. 8 5:02 p.m., 500 block of Argonaut Ave., recovered auto

\*Dec. 9 11:19 a.m., 1400 block of Sunnysdale Ave., recovered truck

\*Dec. 9 100 block of Everson St., vehicle vandalism

\*Dec. 10 10:31 p.m., Bayshore Blvd. and Sunnysdale Ave., stolen truck

\*Dec. 11 8:30 p.m., Hahn St. and Visitacion Ave., suspended license, tow

\*Dec. 11 11:01 p.m., Geneva Ave. and Rio Verde St., unlicensed driver, tow

\*Dec. 12 12:51 a.m., 1700 block of Visitacion Ave., recovered auto

\*Dec. 13 5:40 p.m., Hahn St. and Sunnysdale Ave., unlicensed driver, tow

\*Dec. 13 7:30 p.m., Bayshore Blvd. and Arleta Ave., traffic accident

\*Dec. 17 4:25 p.m., 600 block of Sunnysdale Ave., stolen license plate

\*Dec. 18 4:42 p.m., Unit block of Campbell Ave., stolen auto

\*Dec. 18 6 p.m., 300 block of Schwerin St., stolen plate

\*Dec. 20 12:15 p.m., Visitacion Ave. and Hahn St., unlicensed driver, no tow

\*Dec. 20 7:02 p.m., Visitacion Ave. and Mansell St., unlicensed driver, no tow

\*Dec. 20 10:17 p.m., Santos St. and Sunnysdale Ave., suspended license, tow

\*Dec. 22 4:45 a.m., 1900 block of Sunnysdale Ave., recovered auto

\*Dec. 22 2:45 p.m., Visitacion Ave. and Hahn St., suspended license, tow

\*Dec. 22 9:05 p.m., Leland Ave. and Sawyer St., traffic accident

\*Dec. 23 10:15 a.m., 1400 block of Sunnysdale Ave., stolen motorcycle

Captain David Lazar of Ingleside Station and Captain Greg Suhr of Bayview Station contributed to this report

# About Art in Visitacion Valley

## The Life and Art of Benny Bufano

by Betty Parshall



Russel Morino

Beniamino Butano's works are a familiar sight all over San Francisco. A July, 2009 article written by George Rathmell for the Nob Hill Gazette outlines the Bufano sculptures one would encounter along the City's 49 Mile Scenic Drive, and then moves beyond the familiar tourist route to point out several more works at various locations.

He mentions three works found in San Francisco public housing projects, including the one in front of the Sunnysdale Community Center at 1654 Sunnysdale Ave. "At the Sunnysdale Project, a curious

work titled *Bear and Virgin* shows the head of a growling black bear over a woman's head, symbolizing peace."

An inventory of Bufano's sculptures lists several animals and birds done in his easily recognized style, rounded, elegant and whimsical. Many of these can be seen in the West and East Gardens at the new Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park. Additional pieces reflect his passion for peace, such as St. Francis on Horseback, described as "smooth, understated form (which) is both calm and potent."

Beniamino Bufano was born in Italy in 1886, one of sixteen children. His family immigrated to New York when he was three years old, and when he was six he began augmenting the family income by selling newspapers and shining shoes. He dropped out of school in the third grade. When in his teens he attended an art school; he got a job as a janitor at the school to cover his tuition. Later he became an apprentice with sculptor James Frasier, still performing his janitorial duties.

In 1915, a fellow sculptor who was to create works for the Panama Pacific Fair offered Benny a job as his assistant. Once in San Francisco, Benny's talent was recognized and he began receiving regular commissions.

A legend around Bufano was that he cut off a finger and mailed it to President Wilson to protest against World War I. His wife said that he had accidentally lost two joints of his index finger to an electric saw. Nevertheless the legend persisted and established that he was a pacifist for the rest of his life.

At one time, Benny was instructor at the San Francisco School of Fine Arts. He was very popular with the students but not with the administration, and his teaching career there didn't last long. He was a free spirit and bohemian and had no time for rules, paperwork and bureaucracy.

In his later years Bufano was a true San Francisco character, loved and supported by many. He lived rent-free at the Press Club and ate free meals at Moar's Cafeteria where he'd created three huge mosaic murals.

The owner of Trader Vic's paid the rent on his studio and gave him a permanent meal ticket. Vic was generous but objected when Benny would order champagne and caviar.

Benny Bufano died in 1970. He left all of his unsold and undonated works to the Bufano Society of the Arts. It was ironic that his son, Erskine, whom he'd seen briefly on only two occasions and never acknowledged, became head of the Bufano Society, and it is thanks to the Society that so many of Bufano's works are still in this area.

## Avoiding Deceptive Opt-Out Scams

by Jason Alderman

Proverbs survive because of their universality. Take the adage, "One bad apple spoils the barrel." It teaches us that good people (or good businesses) can be tainted by association with those whose actions are perceived as unscrupulous, even if they themselves don't employ the same deceitful tactics.

Here's an example: Because a very small number of e-commerce merchants have abused a practice called "negative renewal option billing," consumer confidence in the trustworthiness of all online retailers is being undermined. According to a recent Visa Inc. survey, 29 percent of Americans believe they've been victimized by this practice.

In a nutshell, negative option billing is where customers are required to opt out of recurring charges for future products or services, often by being instructed to unclick a pre-checked "terms and conditions" or "payment authorization" box. This clause is usually buried in the fine print most people don't bother to read.

So how are people lured in? It may be as simple as signing up for a free trial or sample of a product or service, not realizing that you've actually agreeing to be billed monthly for future shipments or charges if you don't proactively cancel the service at the end of the trial period. Canceling itself can be an ordeal, since some merchants have notoriously slow or unresponsive customer service (endless holds, no toll-free service number, hiding or omitting opt-out information, difficult return policies, etc.).

The problem has grown in recent

months, thanks to deceptive merchants taking advantage of lower advertising costs to reach broader audiences. Visa, which monitors the merchant payment system, found that merchants using deceptive marketing practices have up to 20 times as many consumer disputes as average e-commerce merchants.

In response the FTC, the Better Business Bureau and Visa have joined forces to educate the public about negative option marketing and how to avoid being victimized. Among the steps they recommend are:

\*Read and understand all terms and conditions (the fine print) before completing any transaction.

\*Pay particular attention to any pre-checked boxes before submitting your payment card information.

\*Always review your monthly credit and debit card statements to spot any unauthorized charges.

If you're being victimized by unauthorized recurring charges or inadvertently signed up for them, first try to resolve the situation with the merchant. Look for cancellation instructions on their website or call customer service.

If they can't or won't resolve the problem, contact the financial institution that issues your card and dispute the charges. As part of your cardholder agreement, they will advocate on your behalf with the merchant's bank.

Also report the problem to the Better Business Bureau – ideally, with the local chapter where the merchant is headquartered. And finally, report abusive marketing practices to the FTC's complaint assistance center at [www.ftc.gov/complaint](http://www.ftc.gov/complaint).



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Grapevine Puzzler

N M J H G H A I H P L E D A L I H P R Y

F G N O C S I C N A R F N A S L J J J H

C F T N A U G G N O D N Y U I E O O K J

F D S E W Q N E H R E I S D X R X H Y F

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O O A W D F G Y U I J H G F D A T Y U C

H B Z A W E R T Y U I U G F T Y D G K F

World's Biggest Cities 2

N M J H G H A I H P L E D A L I H P R Y

F G N O C S I C N A R F N A S L J J J H

C F T N A U G G N O D N Y U I E O O K J

F D S E W Q N E H R E I S D X R X H Y F

G S A D S A K A H D D J X Z Z O C A G T

H D X D S C L R R T Y N J W J L X N G R

B Y D X H O T W O H U A J U G A V N F T

N T X F N G G G K W E I Y H C G B E V F

B R C D Z S A D I E Y T J A H N N S F D

V O O R G I S B N E I A M N E A H B R X

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K T X F I K X T Z F T Y R F D D B X A T

G A X H G C E E W Z X C H A J M M X L R

N G C N R E D S A E X C V C B X Z Z A X

O O A W D F G Y U I J H G F D A T Y U C

H B Z A W E R T Y U I U G F T Y D G K F

## Historic Proportions

**1853**  
Match clues to answers.  
1. He succeeded Millard Fillmore on Mar. 4 as the 14th President of the United States.  
2. On Mar. 20, a rebel army of around 750,000 seized Nanjing, killing 30,000 Imperial troops.  
3. An outbreak of yellow fever here in May killed 7,790.  
4. On May 23, the first streets here are laid out.  
5. On July 8, U.S. Commodore

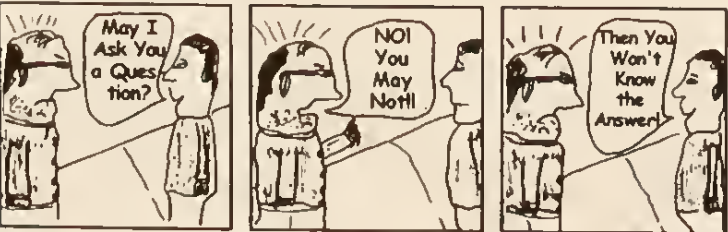
## As a Matter of Fact

\*The cello's real name is the violoncello. The full name of the piano is the pianoforte.  
\*At a wedding there is usually one usher for every 50 guests.  
\*Some places near the earth's equator receive as much as 400 inches of rain each year.  
\*Marie Antoinette had a music box the size and shape of a life-size canary.  
\*Dirty snow melts faster than clean.  
\*At the court of Louis XIV, prestige was measured by the height of the chair one was allowed to sit in.  
\*The dogfish is actually a small shark.  
\*The first pizzeria opened in Naples, Italy in 1830, and the first delivery was made to King Umberto and Queen Margherita.  
\*The dingo, the wild dog of Australia, rarely barks. They are, however, known to howl.  
\*Terriers were originally bred to drive game out of holes in the ground. Terrier comes from terra, the Latin word for earth.  
\*The first known dental school opened in Baltimore, Maryland in 1840.  
\*The world's first passenger train made its debut in England in 1825.  
\*The boysenberry was named after botanist Rudolph Boysen.  
\*Alessandro Volta invented the first electric battery in 1792.

## Grapevine Five Years Ago

**January 2005**  
\*Construction began in November on a three-story mixed-use structure at 199 Leland Ave., the last remaining non-developed site in the neighborhood. When completed, the building included retail space and six units of housing.

## Sump, the Grump



Matthew Perry arrived here with a request for a trade treaty.  
6. Outlaw and handit is killed July 25 in California.  
7. Maria II of Portugal is succeeded on Nov. 15 by her son.  
8. Acquired self-government on Aug. 12.  
9. The United States bought land from Mexico on Dec. 30 to facilitate railroad building in the Southwest.  
10. First prepared on Aug. 24.  
11. The Ottoman Empire declares war on Russia on Oct. 4.  
12. Troops of William Walker captured La Paz in Baja California on Nov. 3 and declared this short-lived republic.  
A. Gadsden Purchase  
B. Franklin Pierce  
C. Pedro  
D. Seattle  
E. Potato chips  
F. Lower California  
G. Taiping Rebellion  
H. Crimean War  
I. Joaquin Murietta  
J. New Orleans  
K. New Zealand  
L. Edo Bay

Answers: 1-D, 2-B, 3-A, 4-C, 5-E, 6-L, 7-H, 8-F, 9-C, 10-I, 11-K, 12-F.

## Sez Who?

Match quotes to speakers.  
1. "Am I not destroying my enemies when I make friends of them?"  
2. "Laughter is the shortest distance between two people."  
3. "Putting pen to paper lights more fire than matches ever will."  
4. "Action is eloquence."  
5. "Champions keep playing until they get it right."  
6. "If we do not succeed, then we run the risk of failure."  
7. "Mistakes are the portals of discovery."  
8. "Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity."  
9. "Man does not live by words alone, despite the fact that he sometimes has to eat them."  
A. Malcolm Forbes  
B. Victor Borge  
C. Adlai Stevenson  
D. Abraham Lincoln  
E. Billie Jean King  
F. George S. Patton  
G. William Shakespeare  
H. James Joyce  
I. Dan Quayle

Answers: 1-D, 2-B, 3-A, 4-C, 5-E, 6-I, 7-H, 8-F, 9-C.

## Cyberbullying And Your Teen

According to the National Council of Juvenile Court Judges, each year nearly 3.2 million students are victims of online bullying, a serious Internet safety concern. To address these issues, Boys & Girls Clubs of America has partnered with Sprint to promote online safety resources for teens and parents.

Sprint's 4NetSafety program aims to open the lines of communication about Internet safety between young people and the adults who care for them. The online resource offers free tools from experts that address the perils that young people commonly encounter online and encourage positive dialogue about Internet safety.

"Sprint is pleased to be entering into this partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs of America," said Debby Ballard, Sprint's director of community affairs. "Internet safety is an area that is very important to Sprint, as evidenced by our 4NetSafety program, and our partnership with BGCA allows us to add to and raise additional awareness about these valuable resources."

A recent survey of young people revealed some startling statistics about how parents are supervising their children's online time.

More than 53 percent say their parents never ask them about whom they are talking to on the Internet, and over half say their parents never surf the Internet with them.

"The Internet can be a wonderful resource, but it has always been our goal to teach our youth how to navigate the Web safely and appropriately," said Dan Rauzi, senior director of technology services and programs at BGCA. "Sprint and BGCA teamed up to raise awareness about a prime concern of ours — the importance of a healthy and safe virtual life for America's youth."

Sprint and Boys & Girls Clubs of America offers the following tips to parents to help keep their teens safer online.

1. Remind your teen that what they post stays online forever.
2. Ask to see their profile page.
3. Tell your child to only add friends they know in real life.
4. Have them use a nickname that doesn't identify their location, gender or age.
5. Tell them not to post plans or whereabouts on a site or page.
6. If your or someone else's child is harassed or bullied online, report it to your local law-enforcement agency or call the CyberTipline at 800-843-5678.

NewsUSA

## Visitacion Valley Business Directory

Valley free listings in the 415 area code  
Call the Grapevine at (415) 467-9300

**AQUARIUM**  
DRAGON CITY AQUARIUM, 144 Leland Ave., 333-4598  
**AUTOMOTIVE**  
BAYSHORE AUTO, 2260 Bayshore Blvd., 467-6130  
BAYSHORE SERVICE, 2596 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5239  
BROTHERS AUTO BODY, 2520 Bayshore Blvd.  
CHARLIE'S GARAGE, 2550 Bayshore Blvd., 239-7450  
TIGER'S AUTO BODY, 23 Industrial Way, Brisbane 94006, 467-6866  
TW AUTOMOTIVE, 2500 Bayshore Blvd., 585-8281  
**BANK**  
BANK OF AMERICA, 6 Leland Ave., 622-4501  
**BAKERS**  
LITTLE OUIAPO BAKE SHOP, 169 Leland Ave., 239-2253  
**BARBERS**  
BARBERSHOP, 3570 San Bruno Ave., 724-4398  
EMMA'S HAIR SALON, 35 Leland Ave., 587-7429  
THE SHOP (JB), 160A Leland Ave., 239-6709  
**BEAUTICIANS**  
AS YOU R, 170 Leland Ave., 756-1450  
BODY, SOUL & SPIRIT, 222 Leland Ave., 333-7261  
CONNIE'S HAIR, 2436 Bayshore Blvd., 586-8288  
HONG KONG HAIR & NAIL BEAUTY SALON, 199 Leland Ave., 333-1005  
NAILS BY JENNY, 50 Leland Ave., 333-6800  
SHERRY BEAUTY SALON, 60 Leland Ave., 337-9381  
**BLIND CLEANING**  
SPEEDY ULTRASONIC BLIND CLEANING (commercial and residential), 1116 Girard St., 467-7506  
**BOARDING HOUSE**  
ABLE'S CASA, 850 Rutland St., 333-4664, fax 333-4693  
**BOOKKEEPERS**  
AMY ARAGON, PROFESSIONAL BOOKKEEPER, 467-8927  
VERNA WALLACE E.A., 2320 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5333  
**CARPETS**  
HANSAN INTERIORS, 41 Leland Ave., 333-6382  
**CHURCHES**  
CHURCH OF THE VISITACION, 655 Sunnysdale Ave., 494-5517, fax 494-5513  
IGLESIA EL ESPIRITU SANTO, 38 Leland Ave.  
KOREAN FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 333 Tunnel Ave., 468-1213  
RIOGE VIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 590 Leland Ave., 239-5457  
ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 240 Leland Ave., 586-6381  
VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH, 306 Raymond Ave., 467-6056  
VISITACION CHINESE BAPTIST CHURCH, 8 Desmond St., 333-4503  
**COFFEE**  
CANDLESTICK COFFEE, 2156 Bayshore Blvd., 467-2442  
HAPPY DONUT, 2600 Bayshore Blvd., 469-5309  
JOE LELAND CAFE, 28 Leland Ave.  
**CREDIT UNION**  
NORTHEAST COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, 29 Leland Ave., 434-0738  
**DAY CARE**  
CAROUSEL DAY CARE, 261 Hahn St., 468-5353  
STARBRITE DAYCARE, 298 Arieta Ave., 656-1887  
**DENTIST**  
VISITACION VALLEY DENTAL OFFICE (Albert Kwan, DDS), 37 Leland Ave., 239-5600  
**DEVELOPERS**  
VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, 1099 Sunnysdale Ave., 587-7895  
**ELECTRICAL**  
TATE ELECTRIC (Joel Tate), 467-4667  
**FLOORS**  
TEDDY B'S HARDWOOD FLOORS, 309-6342  
**FLORISTS**  
IL FIORE FLOWERS, 2466 San Bruno Ave., 468-0145  
**GARDEN ORNAMENTS**  
SILVESTRI GARDEN ORNAMENTS, 2635 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5990  
**GROCERS**  
CASALLOPEZ PRODUCE, 58 Leland Ave., 586-4745  
E Z STOP MARKET, 2203 Geneva Ave., 585-9240  
FIVE MILE MARKET, 3574 San Bruno Ave., 467-7300  
LA LOMA PRODUCE #2, 65 Leland Ave., 239-7520  
LITTLE VILLAGE MARKET, 1450 Sunnysdale Ave., 586-1815  
M & M SHORTSTOP, 2145 Geneva Ave., 585-0878  
PICCOLO PETE, 2155 Bayshore Blvd., 468-6800  
7-11, 2200 Bayshore Blvd., 468-8646  
SHUN LEE MARKET, 2400 Bayshore Blvd., 586-4851  
TEDDY'S MARKET, 298 Teddy Ave.  
**HERBS**  
SAN ON HERBS, 33-A Leland Ave., 333-7469  
**HYPNOTHERAPY**  
VALERIE HABEGGER-HYPNOTHERAPY, 371 Teddy Ave., 468-5631  
**INSURANCE**  
EDIE EPPS (A H E INSURANCE), 467-0236, Fax 467-0276  
ROBERT LEHMAN, CLTC (Blue Cross), 333-0850  
**KITCHEN CABINETS**  
LEE CHANG INTERNATIONAL, 25 Leland Ave., 333-2730  
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SAN FRANCISCO LANDSCAPES (Lc # 932022), 256 Talbert St., 585-9137, siflandscapes.com  
**LAUNDRY/CLEANERS**  
BAY WASH, 44 Leland Ave.  
CITY WASH, 83 Leland Ave., 333-9467  
COIN WASH & DRY LAUNDRY, 186 Leland Ave.

FORTY-NINER CLEANERS, 51 Leland Ave., 239-6418  
LELAND AVENUE CLEANERS, 151 Leland Ave., 586-1412  
VALLEY LAUNDRY, 90 Leland Ave.  
VISITACION VALLEY LAUNDRY, 108 Leland Ave., 239-9030  
**LEARNING**  
FIRST PLACE 2 START, 1252 Sunnysdale Ave., 333-2659  
HERITAGE HOMES CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT CENTER, 245 Rey St., 586-8700  
JOHN KING CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT CENTER, 500 Raymond Ave., 333-1375  
VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY BEACON CENTER, 450 Raymond Ave., 452-4907  
VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS, 103 Tucker Ave., 467-5565  
VISITACION VALLEY FAMILY SCHOOL, 325 Leland Ave., 585-9320  
**LIBRARY**  
VISITACION VALLEY BRANCH, 45 Leland Ave., 239-5270  
**MANUFACTURER**  
SEES CANDIES, INC., 345 Schwenn St.  
**MEDICAL**  
AMERICAN RED CROSS, BAY AREA CHAPTER, 1704 Sunnysdale Ave., 584-3620  
HAWKINS VILLAGE MEDICAL CLINIC (Dept. of Public Health), 1099 Sunnysdale Ave., Appointments 715-0310  
DR. SAM HO, MD, 2858 San Bruno Ave., 337-6135  
NEW CARNIVAL ACUPRESSURE HEALTH CENTER, 2458 Bayshore Blvd., 337-8100  
NORTH EAST MEDICAL SERVICES, LELAND AVENUE, 82 Leland Ave., 391-9686 (ask for Leland Avenue clinic)  
PORTOLA FOOT & ANKLE CLINIC (Dr. Dnyang Patel), 2858 San Bruno Ave., 467-7500  
**ORGANIZATIONS**  
ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER, 2442 Bayshore Blvd., 587-2689  
WILLIE BROWN JR. TEEN CENTER, 1652 Sunnysdale Ave., 584-6099  
CHINESE FOR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN VISITACION VALLEY, 1099 Sunnysdale Ave., 597-5779  
GENEVA TERRACE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, 60 Burr Ave., 584-2700  
GIRLS AFTER SCHOOL ACADEMY, 2050 Sunnysdale Ave., 333 Schwenn St., 584-4044  
JOHN KING SENIOR COMMUNITY, 500 Raymond Ave., 239-6233  
LELAND HOUSE, 141 Leland Ave., 405-2000  
ROCK (Real Options for City Kids), 590 Leland Ave., 333-4001  
SUNNYSDALE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB, 1654 Sunnysdale Ave., 584-3028  
SUNNYSDALE DEVELOPMENT COO OFFICE, 1652 Sunnysdale Ave., 841-1683  
VISITACION VALLEY SENIOR CENTER, 66 Raymond Ave., 467-4499  
**PHARMACY**  
VISITACION VALLEY PHARMACY, 100 Leland Ave., 239-5811  
**PHOTOGRAPHER**  
WALTER CORBIN PHOTOGRAPHY (freelance), 435 Sawyer St., 587-9471, fax 337-8620  
**PLUMBING**  
MARK VOELKER PLUMBING, 99 Arieta Ave., 467-7401  
**POST OFFICE**  
VISITACION USPO, 68 Leland Ave., (800) 275-8777  
**REAL ESTATE**  
JUSTYNA TO, (Realtor, Coldwell Banker), 830-1235  
LAFLUE-WALTON & ASSOCIATES, 2428 Bayshore Blvd., 587-8683  
ROYAL PACIFIC MORTGAGE, 46 Leland Ave., 333-4900  
CATHY KUINE SAUNDERS (Zephyr Real Estate), 215 West Portal Ave., 731-5011 ex. 163  
**RESTAURANTS**  
BAYSIDE CAFE, 2011 Bayshore Blvd., 467-2023  
HAPPY FAMILY FAST FOOD, 107 Leland Ave., 333-8569  
G & L BAKERY & RESTAURANT, 198 Leland Ave., 239-6283  
LUAN FAT BAKERY, 110 Leland Ave., 585-1167  
NAYANT TAQUERIA, 98 Leland Ave., 587-7721  
TWO JACKS, 167 Leland Ave., 337-0433  
**SCULPTOR**  
CARTORIGINALS (Mikal Cantor), 2 Hahn St., 239-4138  
**SELF-DEVELOPMENT**  
DYNAMIC DEVELOPMENTS (Marjorie Ann Williams, CEO, Career and Self-Enhancements Specialist), 467-7608  
**SERVICE PROVIDERS**  
CLAIR PROJECT, 1099 Sunnysdale Ave., Ste. 323, 333-3017, fax 587-7481  
THE VILLAGE, 1099 Sunnysdale Ave., 239-5045  
VISITACION VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH OUTREACH CENTER, 57 Leland Ave.  
VISITACION VALLEY BILINGUAL EDUCATION, SUPPORTIVE SERVICES & TRAINING, 120 Leland Ave.  
VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER (VVCC), 50 Raymond Ave., 467-6400  
VVCC FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER, 161 Leland Ave., 586-6998, Fax 586-8027  
VISITACION VALLEY BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES AND OUTREACH TO MERCHANTS (VVBOOM), 91 Leland Ave., 585-2338  
**TELEPHONE**  
O & A WIRELESS, 78 Leland Ave., 452-4139  
**VARIETY**  
GOLDEN 99 CENTS ZONE, 5-7 Leland Ave., 333-3923

## Vehicles That Retain the Most Value

While most car buyers consider sticker price a significant number, they may also care to consider a number they won't find on any window sticker: the resale value.

Depreciation is often the greatest expense incurred by drivers during the first five years of vehicle ownership. Knowing what vehicle brands and models have the best projected resale value can help drivers make a more informed decision.

To help, the leading provider of new- and used-vehicle information, Kelley Blue Book, announced the winners of its annual Best Resale Value Awards.

The company points out that just because a car is expensive or from a luxury brand does not necessarily mean it will hold its value better down the road. In addition, many options and packages may not increase resale value. Finally, regional

preferences can significantly affect the value of a vehicle. In colder areas, a two-wheel-drive vehicle's resale value will not be as high as a four-wheel- or all-wheel-drive option of that same model. Conversely, in warmer climates, black (or dark-colored) cars will not have as high a resale value as light-colored cars.

"Especially in today's difficult economy, consumers should take a good look at the projected resale value of a car when choosing their next new-vehicle purchase," said James Bell, executive market analyst for Kelley Blue Book's kbb.com. "Taking the time to research and choose vehicle makes, models and options wisely now can help new-car shoppers keep additional money in their pocket down the road."

For more information about Kelley Blue Book's Best Resale Value Awards, visit [www.kbb.com/brva2010](http://www.kbb.com/brva2010). **NAPS**



## Nissan to Bring First All-Electric Vehicle to S.F.

Mayor Newsom announced Dec. 7 on behalf of the Bay Area Electric Vehicle (EV) Corridor program that Nissan has decided to make its first all-electric vehicle, the LEAF, available to Bay Area consumers starting next year. The vehicle will be sold in San Francisco and the Bay Area.

"This collaboration stems from Nissan's recognition of the aggressive work we are doing to make the San Francisco Bay Area the nation's EV capital," said Mayor Newsom.

Nissan will be the first major automaker with an all-battery electric car available to consumers, beginning in late 2010, and other EVs and plug-in hybrid cars will be entering the market in the next year or two.

"We are making every effort to have the infrastructure ready when the Nissan LEAF arrives, and we are extremely pleased to have Nissan as a collaborative partner in making that happen," said Mayor Newsom.

In addition, the car company will work with San Francisco and the region to promote and develop EV charging infrastructure, including development of a streamlined process for customer installation of charging equipment in their homes. The Nissan LEAF will serve as a pilot vehicle for implementing this streamlined process.

"Nissan is committed to the San Francisco market and is looking forward to working with the city and others in the partnership to make zero emissions a reality throughout the Bay Area," said Brian Carolin, senior vice president, sales and marketing, Nissan North America. "In one year, Nissan LEAF zero-emission vehicles will be driving on the streets of San Francisco."

More than half of San Francisco's greenhouse gas emissions come from the transportation sector. Ush-

ering in the use of zero-emission electric vehicles and clean, energy efficient plug-in hybrids is part of the Bay Area's efforts to meet its critically important climate protection goals, along with promoting greater use of transit, bicycles and other alternatives to gasoline cars.

One year ago, Mayors Newsom, Reed and Dellums jointly announced their plan to start a region-wide program to transform the San Francisco Bay Area into the EV Capital of the U.S. That regional EV initiative, now called the Bay Area EV Corridor Program, has led to coordinated efforts by public and private stakeholders throughout the entire region to promote the use of plug-in vehicles.

"The Bay Area stands at the forefront of the electric vehicle movement," said Mayor Dellums. "This regional collaboration is another bold step in finding ways to transcend our own limited boundaries and joining efforts to wrestle global warming to the ground."

"This effort to make the Bay Area EV-ready shows the innovation that can happen when the public and

private sectors work together. Our work has great potential to both protect the environment and create clean tech jobs," said Mayor Reed.

Other members of the Bay Area EV Corridor program include: all nine Bay Area counties and numerous cities; the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), Bay

## New Law to Help Homeowners Avoid Property Tax Scams

Assessor-Recorder Phil Ting along with Bay Area Assessors from Alameda, Contra Costa, and Marin Counties and Assemblymember Ted Lieu warned homeowners on Dec. 8 about misleading and official-looking property tax reduction solicitations and to highlight a new law, Assembly Bill 992, which officially outlaws these fraudulent letters beginning January 1, 2010.

"These con-artists are taking advantage of vulnerable homeowner's which is not only deplorable but is also criminal. There is no reason for a property owner to pay a fee to a private company for a free service you get from the assessor's office," said Ting. "We stand here today to ensure that everyone is aware of the

Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), and Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC); major business associations such as Bay Area Council and Silicon Valley Leadership Group; PG&E, EPRI, local businesses including EV infrastructure companies Better Place and Coulomb Technologies, auto com-

panies and others. San Francisco recently received a \$1 million federal appropriation to support EV initiatives, and two regional grants totaling three-quarters million dollars have been received for EV technical training and curriculum development.

free services our offices provide." AB 992, a new law authored by Assemblymember Lieu, puts an end to this scam by preventing these miscreants from sending solicitations that look like official government letters that attempt to collect a fee, and in some cases, even threaten a late fee if not acted upon immediately.

"With property values dropping across the state, scammers are preying on unsuspecting homeowners by offering to help lower their property tax bill," said Assemblymember Lieu. "These unscrupulous companies offer to file property tax reduction requests with the county assessor's office, in return for an unnecessary fee of several hundred dollars from the homeowner."

raising low deductibles. (Just make sure your coverage has kept pace with inflation.)

\*Balance your checkbook. Even though many banks have recently lowered fees for bounced checks and overdrafts, one a month at \$25 a pop adds up to \$300 a year.

\*Build an emergency fund. Financial experts usually recommend stowing three to six months' expenses in an emergency fund. That's a good long-term goal, but if it's not currently realistic, don't simply give up without trying - stash some of the cash you're saving above, a few dollars each month. You won't miss it and might just be saved from having to take out an expensive short-term loan to cover emergency car repairs or an overdue electric bill.

\*Get organized. Even if you can't afford to pay off all bills in full

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panies and others.

County assessors from across California are being inundated with questions and concerns from property owners who have received misleading mailers. They are urging homeowners to be on the lookout for these mailers and to contact their local assessor's office directly to properly file for lower assessments.

"During these tough economic times, it is important that local government take additional steps to protect the taxpayer," said Contra Costa County Assessor Gus Kramer.

"They are bottom dwellers who are feeding upon the increased fears of homeowners stressed out by a declining real estate market and the loss of equity," said Santa Clara County Assessor Larry Stone.

## Some Financial Resolutions That Might Make Some Cents in the New Year

each month, at least know where you stand regarding due dates, minimum payments due and credit limits so you don't inadvertently rack up higher interest rates or damage your credit score. If you're a chronic procrastinator, set up automatic bill payment with your bank - it'll save on postage as well.

\*Stick to your budget. If you don't have a budget, make this the year you create one. Numerous online tools are available to help. For example, Practical Money Skills for Life, Visa Inc.'s free personal financial management program ([www.practicalmoneyskills.com/budgeting](http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/budgeting)), features budgeting worksheets and calculators, guidelines for living within your means, budgeting recommendations for back-to-school, holiday spending, travel, and much more.

by Jason Alderman

At this time of year, many people pause to reflect on what they'd like to change about their lives going forward - lose a few pounds, take a class, spend more time with the kids. Often, these goals revolve around personal finances.

But if you've been battered by economic forces beyond your control (as many have recently), it may be tough to craft financial resolutions ambitious enough to have a real impact on your situation - especially if you fear that unforeseen obstacles may later force you to scale them back or even lose ground.

That's why I urge taking baby steps - setting small, meaningful objectives that provide a sense of accomplishment and that you can ramp up when your situation improves. Here are a few examples:

\*Scale back expenses. If you can't

make a big dent in your monthly costs, like refinancing your mortgage or selling an unneeded vehicle to eliminate a car payment, look for lots of little dents that can add up:

\*Save \$10 a week by having one less fast food meal and to-go coffee, or rent a DVD instead of going out to the movies - that might save about \$500 a year.

\*Lower the thermostat in the winter by 1 degree and save 3 to 5 percent on your utility bill - saving \$5 a month equals \$60 a year.

\*Drive slower. Each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph costs about \$0.24 per gallon of gas. Properly inflate your tires, keep the engine tuned and cut out aggressive driving habits and you'll save even bigger bucks.

\*Shop around for better home and car insurance rates, and consider

## Visitacon Valley Family and Community Services Center



**For a Better, Healthier, Safer Community for All**

## We Can Help You!

Complete Immigration documents, assist with SF County paperwork (Medi-Cal, Welfare, etc.), education workshops, referrals to other services

### Eight Weeks Parenting Classes

Every Wednesday  
January 27 to March 17  
4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Speaker: Dina Castellon  
Community Health  
Program Representative

### Drop-In Consultation with Mental Health Consultant

Thursday, January 7, 14,  
21 and 28, 1 to 5 p.m.

Call (415) 342-4364  
for appointment.

### Eight Weeks Parenting Classes Improving Parent and Child Relationship, Part 1

Every Tuesday  
January 12 to March 2

Male Involvement Group  
Saturday, January 9  
1 to 3 p.m.



### Free Food Distribution

Every Tuesday,  
1 to 2 p.m.  
January 5, 12, 19 and 26  
Emergency food  
box available anytime.  
Call (415) 586-6998,  
Monday-Friday,  
9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

## January 2010 Activities

Enhanced Information and Referral  
Every Monday Through Friday  
January 1 to 31, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Spanish Support Group  
Friday, January 8 and 22, 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Chinese Support Group  
Friday, January 8 and Thursday, January 28  
10:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Family Fun Literacy  
VVCC Library, 45 Leland Ave.  
Thursday, January 7 and 28, 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Marichelle Punzalan, Jenny Sosa  
Jack Kwong, Kevin Blackwell, Molly Hassler



**161 Leland Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134**  
**Tel: (415) 586-6998 Fax (415) 586-8027**





# I have been studying Visitacion Valley for a long Time.



Cathy Kline Saunders  
CRS 2006

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